Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-212
Thursday
4 November 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-212 *4 November 1993*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians Delineate Jericho Boundaries

TA0411110793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 93 p 12

[Pool report]

[Excerpts] A new crisis looms over the Taba talks. At Yasir 'Arafat's instructions, the Palestinians have drawn up a new map of the boundaries of Jericho's autonomous area that even exceeds the city's boundaries at the time of the British mandate.

The new map includes an area of over 500 square km, from 'Ayn Fashkhah in the south to the Damiya Bridge in the center of the Jordan Valley. In contrast, the area of the Gaza Strip is "only" 364 square km. According to the new Palestinian proposal, Jericho's autonomous area would be larger than the Gaza Strip's.

The negotiators assume that the new map will rekindle the crisis, seeing that Israel will under no circumstances accept such a far-reaching proposal. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, a senior defense establishment official categorically rejected the PLO's proposal to deploy a multinational force in the territories and in the Gaza Strip "until all the settlements are removed from there." The source said the idea is "totally out of the question."

The proposal to deploy multinational troops was raised in Tunis by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. [passage omitted]

Jordanians Cited on Banking Talks With Israelis

JN0311092593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 93 p 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text]—Jordanian and Israeli officials are meeting in Washington to discuss an agreement on the modalities of Jordanian supervision of the monetary affairs of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the five-year interim autonomy period.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michael Marto is heading the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israeli counterparts.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, in a regular press briefing on Monday [1 November], described the talks as technical discussions on the issue of how Jordanian banks might operate in the occupied territories.

Officials and diplomats here said the talks covered an overall framework for not only commercial banks but also for other monetary operations such as exchange houses and currency regulations.

The officials and diplomats expected this round of negotiations to produce an agreement under which the CBJ will assume a supervisory and controlling capacity over commerical banks and exchange houses in the occupied territories.

They noted that the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on autonomy signed on Sept. 13 went into effect on Oct. 13 and Israel is scheduled to begin a limited withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13.

"There is a sense of urgency on both sides," said a diplomatic source. "Palestinians have to see the fruits of the peace agreement on the ground as soon as possible. This is one of the keys to the success of the autonomy accord."

One of the stumbling blocks in a Jordanian-Israeli agreement on reopening Jordanian banks which closed their operations in the occupied territories in 1967 was an Israeli quest to impose a limit on transfers from the West Bank to the East Bank through the banks, according to reports in the Western media.

The reports said another hurdle was an Israeli stipulation that a part of the deposits in the commercial banks to be reopened in the occupied territories be redeposited in dollars with the Israeli central bank.

A well-informed source brushed aside these reports. "There is a host of other issues that need to be clarified," the source told the Jordan Times. The source declined to elaborate.

Israeli officials have also been keeping a tight veil of secrecy over the conditions that they would like to impose on banking in the occupied territories.

The Jordanian position in the negotiations in Washington stems from a broad framework for economic cooperation agreed with the Palestinians. This included CBJ supervision and control of commercial banks and exchange houses and continued use of the Jordanian dinar as the dominant currency in the occupied territories.

Dr. Fahd al-Fanik, a noted Jordanian economist and columnist, wrote in the Arabic-language AL-RA'Y daily this week that the Palestinians had withdrawn request that they be represented in the board of directors of the CBJ during the meetings last week of a Jordanian-Palestinian committee on economic cooperation.

According to Dr. al-Fanid, the shift in stand came after the Jordanian government made it clear that the very nature of the CBJ and the statute of the Central Bank do not permit such representation. While the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan is appointed, the rest of the board represents the Jordanian private sector.

Dr. al-Fanik, stressing that the information available to him was not official and incomplete in view of the secrecy that surrounded the talks, also reported that the

Palestinians wanted to issue bonds in Jordanian dinars and set up a stock market as well as a Palestinian development bank.

Highly-placed officials declined to confirm or deny the reports. "It is premature to discuss the details," said a senior official. "There will be a formal announcement as and when things are finalised."

Senior IDF, Syrian Officers Said Holding Talks

TA0411095993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Journalist Shim'on Schiffer says that senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers have met with Syrian officers in Europe. Speaking to our correspondent this morning, Schiffer said that this meeting opened an additional track of contacts with the Syrians.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan To Offer New Proposals at Moscow Arms Talks

JN0311122093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—Jordan will take part in a two-day meeting of multilateral working group on Middle East arms control and regional security which starts in Moscow today.

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be headed by 'Abdallah Tuqan, His Majesty King Husayn's scientific advisor.

In a statement to the Jordan Times and al-Ra'y, Dr. Tuqan said Jordan would present to the meeting new proposals aimed at preempting conflicts in the region, ensuring a safe future for people in the Middle East and enabling future generations to live in peace and security.

Dr. Tuqan said although the cold war and Gulf war had ended, prospects for establishing genuine peace in the region were becoming harder in light of the acceleration of international and regional events and conflict.

This, he said, calls for the creation of a "comprehensive formula for regional security cooperation, which will in turn contribute to ensuring economic, political and psychological security."

The Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace talks signed September within the Framework of the bilateral Arab-Israel peace talks is a step towards establishing a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region, he said. "Any threat to the security and stability in the Middle East will shake the very foundations of the peace process and reflect on trade and economic development in the region," Dr. Tuqan said. "This in turn will affect the progress towards democratisation and human rights."

Dr. Tuqan said the continuous race for the acquisition of arms at the expense of natural resources would lead to economic decline and deprivation, causing a great imbalance.

He noted that military cuts and the resulting savings could correct such imbalances and achieve economic development.

He stressed Jordan's firm position toward removal of arms of massive destruction. "Jordan believes that such an issue should rank high on the agenda," he said.

"Jordan is a strong supporter of turning the Middle East into an area free from weapons of massive destruction."

Dr. Tuqan said Jordan seeks to foster dialogue and exchange of information.

Arab League Chief: Boycott of Israel 'Continuing'

JN0411103293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 30

[Report from AL-RA'Y Cairo office]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has asserted that he is willing to respond to any Arab leader who calls for an Arab summit at the right time and place. He said, however, that an Arab summit is primarily the business of Arab leaders, and that the Arab League charter says nothing about a mechanism for holding Arab summits. This is why all the summits held so far were on the initiative of Arab leaders rather than the Arab League secretary general.

He added that the Arab League secretary general cannot do much. However, if all Arab states cooperate according to the spirit I believe in, then the secretary general can put the Arab house in order.

He added: We know that there are Arab differences. These differences should remain inside the Arab house and be contained rather than allowed to spread outside.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid also asserted that the Arab boycott of Israel is continuing and will not be lifted before comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace is achieved. He said that Egypt is fully committed to Arab decisions in this regard, despite the fact that it made peace with Israel. Achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East, he added, will provide an opportunity to invest the huge Arab resources which have been geared toward armament and war for a long time.

Regarding a recent report that a Gulf state is about to sign an agreement with Israel to supply it with gas, AL-RA'Y has learned that the United Arab Emirates has asked trade companies to obtain certificates containing detailed information about the origin of all imports, in order to prevent the entry of Israeli products.

The Arab Suboffice for the Boycott of Israel, an annex of the Ministry of Trade and Economy, has asserted that all imports should have a certificate showing the identity

and address of the exporting company and the name of the country. Once approval is given, a sticker bearing the words "this shipment is not banned from entering Arab ports" will be attached to it.

BIS Decision on Loans to Arab States Assessed

NC0311214793 Paris AFP in English 2104 GMT 3 Nov 93

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Nov 3 (AFP)—A decision by the Bank of International Settlement (BIS) on lending activities worldwide is expected to complicate attempts by poor Arab states to heal their ailing economies, regional experts said on Wednesday [3 November].

The decision by BIS's Basel Committee classified all Arab states, except Saudi Arabia, as high-risk areas in loan operations, triggering protests from many of them on the grounds they enjoyed a robust financial position.

"It has become more difficult for Arab states to obtain loans from international markets because of that classification," the Kuwaiti-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said in a study to an Arab investment conference in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"This could affect development at a time when several Arab nations have launched reforms."

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, was excluded from the classification because it is the fifth largest creditor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), delegates to the conference said.

It has maintained that rank though its reserves with the Washington-based IMF has steadily shrunk as it was constantly forced to withdraw from the funds to shore up a persistent budget deficit caused by a fall in oil prices.

Official Arab figures showed the Saudi reserves, including gold, stood at 11.6 billion dollars at the end of 1991 compared with 16.7 billion dollars in 1989, 22.6 billion dollars in 1987 and 25 billion dollars in 1985.

Gulf states have said they were taking measures to consolidate their financial position to persuade the Basel committee to revise its decision, which was enforced at the start of 1993.

The measures include reforms in the banking sector to ensure all banks meet a BIS floor of eight percent for capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholders equities and assets.

They also included boosting their reserves with IMF. Arab League figures showed the reserves of most members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have steadily increased since BIS made its proposals in 1988.

The UAE's reserves increased to 5.3 billion dollars in 1991 from 4.4 billion dollars in 1988 while those of Kuwait rose to 3.4 billion dollars from 1.9 billion dollars in the same period.

Oman boosted them to 1.66 billion dollars from around one billion dollars, Bahrain to nearly 1.5 billion dollars from 1.2 billion dollars and Qatar to 632.2 million dollars from 474.5 million dollars.

"Gulf states and other Arab oil producers will hardly be affected by the BIS decision as they rarely resort to foreign borrowing. Even if they seek loans from international markets, they will not find any difficulty because their financial position is still strong," said a delegate at the conference.

"Most other Arab League members will suffer as they are in a bad need of funds to finance reforms at a time when aid and remittances from the Gulf have sharply fallen and their debt has steadily grown. There is no doubt, this will slow down reforms and affect domestic development."

According to the ACIG study, Arab states have heavily depended on loans to finance development in the past two decades. Between 1973 and 1990, Arabs borrowed 116 billion dollars while loans and other development funds totalled 180 billion dollars, of which 47 billion dollars came from oil-rich members.

Islamic Affairs

Algeria Signs Financial Accords With Islamic Bank

LD0211193193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Banjul, 2 Nov (SPA)—Two agreements between the Islamic Development Bank and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria were signed this afternoon in Banjul, the capital of the Republic of Gambia. The total amount of the agreements is $11.55 million for the benefit of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

According to the first agreement, the Bank will finance a foreign trade operation to purchase iron from a member state for the benefit of the Algerian National Company for Iron and Steel for the amount of $8.55 million. According to the second agreement, the Bank will also finance a foreign trade operation to purchase cement from a member state for the benefit of the Algerian National Company for Cement and its residues worth the amount of $3 million. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th Comments on Suspended Talks, Meets With Musa

Sha'th Rules Out Permanent Suspension

LD0311183693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, ruled out yesterday that the

negotiations would be suspended for good after they were suspended indefinitely by the Palestinians yesterday.

Brother Nabil Sha'th added: The suspension of negotiations must be considered as a message addressed to Israel and must mean that the negotiations were not achieving progress because of the Israelis' conception of the meaning of security. He added: We do not act whimsically or on the basis of tactical moves.

Sha'th said that the suspension of negotiations should enable their resumption on a better foundation. He mentioned that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement stipulated the withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho region and not withdrawal in these regions.

He stressed that the Palestinians could not find it sufficient to have just a redeployment of Israeli forces outside inhabited areas, as the Israelis suggested.

Sha'th stressed: We suspend the talks in order to hold consultations with our leadership and Yasir 'Arafat and to enable the Israeli interlocutors to consult their leadership.

He pointed out that the principle of withdrawal must be respected and said: We cannot accept to go forward without obtaining guarantees in advance.

'Security Theory' Must Be Clear

NC0311150093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1257 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba negotiations, has stated that the Palestinian delegation decided to suspend the negotiations with the Israeli side to give both sides a chance to consult with their leaderships.

In an arrival statement here today, Dr. Sha'th said that the Palestinian delegation has complete plans and sufficient resources to conclude the negotiations within a week. We have full instructions to negotiate and reach an agreement, Dr. Sha'th said.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Israeli delegation is acting in a way that totally conflicts with the letter of the agreement that we signed, an agreement that calls for a full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. The Israelis speak of redeployment of their troops, occupation of the roads and borders, and a security cordon around the Palestinian settlements and cities.

Sha'th explained that Israel wants to place thousands of borders between Gaza and Egypt at a time when there is a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. He said: Has anyone asked Israel to defend the Gaza Strip against Egypt? Why does it need to deploy troops on the borders between Gaza and Egypt?

The problem is not one of details, Sha'th said. We can spend two years talking about details. We can also decide matters in two days flat, but to do so we have to be clear on what security theory we adopt. Negotiations should focus on a plan for withdrawal, rather that one for deployment, he stated.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will visit Israel. Egypt always supports the Palestinian right to preserve the peace efforts, Sha'th said, adding that he expects Musa to play a role in the process of conveying the aforesaid Palestinian position to the Israelis.

The Palestinian negotiator pointed out that the Palestinians are not engaged in media tactics or sensationalism. He called on Israel to uphold the Declaration of Principles signed last September.

Sha'th praised Egypt for its constant support to the Palestinians. He said that he will meet Minister Musa later today, upon a request from Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], and brief him on the relevant details so that Musa may convey these to Israel.

Sha'th Comments After Meeting

NC0311143293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. The meeting was attended by Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of Palestine in Cairo, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement representative in Cairo.

Dr. Sha'th stated after the meeting that he briefed Musa on the results of the Taba negotiations and the reasons prompting the Palestinian delegation to suspend the negotiations and ask that the Israeli delegation return home to receive new instructions regarding the concept of security and total withdrawal, as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles signed between the two sides.

Dr. Sha'th said he also explained the reasons for the Israeli intransigence, noting that instead of withdrawing fully from the Gaza Strip, as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles, the Israelis are proposing a redeployment of their forces in the Strip. This clearly contradicts the Declaration of Principles. He added that the Palestinian delegation found it difficult to continue negotiating the details without an agreement on the fundamental principles.

Dr. Sha'th said Musa will visit Israel tomorrow to meet the Israeli leaders within the framework of the role that Egypt is undertaking to support the Palestinian position and advance the peace process.

He said he hoped the foreign minister would try to solve the problems leading to the impasse in the negotiations.

Dr. Sha'th said the Israelis always exaggerate their so-called security concerns, pointing out that the 13th

Article in the Declaration of Principles discussed the redeployment of the forces in the West Bank, while the 14th Article discussed withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. There is no ambiguity on this. He explained that the agreement called for international guarantees and provided for a temporary international presence in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Dr. Sha'th said the resumption of the Taba talks will be decided in light of Foreign Minister Musa's visit to Israel tomorrow.

He said the Palestinian delegation submitted a clear plan responding to all the Israeli points and outlining the Palestinian views. He said Israel must withdraw from every area. We are ready to guarantee comprehensive security for everyone in the Gaza Strip through the Palestinian security force, which must have the capability and equipment to do its work. He explained that the Palestinian security force in the Gaza Strip will consist of 10,000 soldiers. This is in addition to a UN or a multinational force of two battalions. He said this force can maintain security in this area.

Dr. Sha'th said the Israeli delegation did not object to demands for the preparation of a Palestinian police force. He said the Jericho issue has not been raised at the Taba negotiations and that the talks have focused mainly on the Gaza issue.

He said the real problem lies in the Israeli security concept, which contradicts the principle of withdrawal as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles.

Negotiator al-Tarifi Denies Talks Reached 'Dead End'

JN0411094093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 30

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Civilian Affairs Subcommittee of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba self-rule negotiations, has asserted that the Israeli proposal on withdrawal from the Gaza Strip allows the Israelis to control 40 percent of Gaza.

In a telephone interview with AL-RA'Y from the Taba Hotel in Egypt, al-Tarifi denied the fourth round of self-rule talks between the Palestinians and Israelis reached a dead end.

Al-Tarifi, who was packing to leave for occupied Palestine via Beersheba, added: There is no crisis. I expect the fifth round of Taba negotiations to resume in 10 days at the latest.

He added: We did face obstacles as a result of the Israeli plan on withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but we will return to negotiations with the Israelis.

Al-Tarifi went on: We told the Israeli side: Your plan is a redeployment, not withdrawal, of your troops, as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Al-Tarifi said the Palestinian-Israeli dispute over the Israeli plan for withdrawal from the Gaza Strip has obstructed the activity of other subcommittees, especially the Confidence-Building Subcommittee, which is discussing issues pertaining to Palestinian prisoners and exiles.

He added: We did not discuss the borders of the Jericho area. Nor did we talk about the "safe passageway" between the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Al-Tarifi pointed out that the Civilian Affairs Subcommittee, which is discussing the transfer of authority to the Palestinians, has faced many difficulties as a result of the Israeli concept of withdrawal and security. Consequently, the negotiations came to a standstill. This is why we suspended negotiations for consultations with the Palestinian leadership.

He said President 'Arafat asked the Palestinian delegation to return to Tunis for consultation. The Palestinian delegation returned this morning (yesterday) heading for Tunis, although several members of the delegation, including al-Tarifi, returned to occupied Palestine at the same hour.

Al-Tarifi said the Israeli delegation is disciplined and follows the instructions of its government. It was strict most of the time, despite a show of understanding and open-mindedness.

Al-Tarifi said the Palestinian delegation demonstrated high caliber in all military and civilian aspects of the negotiations. He added that the Israelis rejected without reason a Palestinian request to change the venue of the negotiations to al-'Arish or Cairo.

Concluding his telephone interview, al-Tarifi reassured all readers of AL-RA'Y that the residents of Gaza and Jericho will wake up at the time stipulated in the agreement without seeing any Israeli soldier around.

Arab League Envoy on Options To Resume Taba Talks

NC0311140293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today conferred with Sa'id Kamal, the Palestinian permanent delegate to the Arab League. Afterward, the Palestinian ambassador stated that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed him on his views regarding the Arab reconciliation mission he is undertaking. [passage omitted]

Kamal added that he briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the details of the recent meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, including the Palestinian delegation's decision to suspend the talks on the instructions of Yasir 'Arafat.

Kamal noted that efforts will be made in the coming hours with the Palestinian and Israeli sides to put things on track.

Kamal discussed several options to remove the obstacles facing the Committee's work, such as reconvening the Liaison Committee in Cairo or holding a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. He added: We will wait until Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa concludes his visit to Israel, which begins tomorrow.

On the most important difficulties facing the Palestinian-Israeli meetings, Kamal said that most important of all is the Israeli negotiating team's failure to recognize the principle of full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, as outlined in the Declaration of Principles and the protocol of the Gaza-Jericho Committee.

Bethlehem Mayor on Settler Attacks, Suspended Talks

NC0411091693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0810 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, in Bethlehem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jundi] Mr. Ilyas Frayj, how do you view the continued acts of aggression against Palestinian citizens by Jewish settlers?

[Frayj] I view the aggressions of the armed Jewish settlers with extreme seriousness. The settlers are attacking peaceful, defenseless people. They are [words indistinct] and burning scores of cars and houses, and they even burned an elementary school. The Israeli Army is doing nothing to stop this. On the other hand, when a Palestinian child throws a stone at an Israeli soldier, the soldier shoots him dead. Indeed, the lives of Palestinian citizens are now in danger. I call on the Arab countries [words indistinct] the Security Council to provide international protection for the Arab citizens against the belligerence of the settlers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe the postponement of the Gaza-Jericho meetings was a reflection of the escalating situation in the occupied territories and a reaction to the Israeli plan for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho—the plan that contradicts the essence of the joint Declaration of Principles?

[Frayj] The postponement was a result of Israel's hardline position and violation of the terms of the agreement. It is understood that Israel has to withdraw from the entire Gaza Strip, except for the settlements, and also from the entire Jericho region. But Israel wants the Israeli Army to remain in Gaza, with some withdrawal from this area to that area, and so on. We want Israel to abide by the terms and conditions of the officially-approved Oslo agreement and to pull out of all Arab regions in Gaza and Jericho.

[Al-Jundi] Tel Aviv is using the protection of the Israeli settlements as an excuse to keep the Israeli Army in the Palestinian autonomous regions. Is the Palestinian leadership fully ready to protect these settlements?

[Frayj] I believe that all the settlements are illegal and illegitimate. Who can force me to protect illegitimate settlements?

[Al-Jundi] So the solution is to transfer these settlements to Israel?

[Frayj] Yes, yes sir. [passage omitted]

Israel Urged to 'Get Closer' to Palestinian Stance

TA0311173393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Dimensions of the Taba Talks' Suspension"]

[Text] When the Palestinian side accepted the great challenge of engaging in the peace process and advancing on it until the end, it was convinced that the Israeli side had the same convictions regarding the peace option and that the Israeli decisionmakers were pursuing a peaceful settlement objectively and seriously—terms which distinguish the Palestinian viewpoint toward peace and a settlement.

But the ridiculous Israeli proposals that were presented during the past two days in Taba with regard to the security plan, as well as the geographical maps proposed for the areas of Gaza and Jericho, call into question the seriousness of the Israeli negotiators and that of the decisionmakers behind him. Those proposals are very far even from the provisions of the Declaration of Principles, which clearly spoke about an Israeli withdrawal from those two areas, not merely "redeployment" of Israeli forces in them, implying that in general the current situation in the occupied territories will continue and that only the name will change from "occupation" to "self-rule."

Settlements and settlement activity should not be used as a pretext for an Israeli refusal to take fundamental steps and measures stemming principally from the spirit of the interim accord and on the basis of a universally accepted understanding of any peace agreement. That understanding means real withdrawal from those two concerned areas in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242.

From this premise, the Palestinian side's suspension of the talks is compatible with the Palestinian and international understanding of the peaceful settlement within its interim and final framework. It is also compatible with the extreme seriousness and gravity which the Palestinians attach to the possible chances for establishing peace. The indications of that peace became evident in the interim accord which the Taba talks are seeking to implement in an honorable and objective fashion.

The difference between the Palestinian and Israeli positions is enormous. The decisionmakers in Israel should take numerous steps as soon as possible to get closer to the Palestinian position. This is because the time available for implementing the interim accord is not as long as the 10 years of negotiations between Egypt and Israel over Taba—the venue in which the Palestinian-Israeli talks are presently being conducted. Those talks are supposed to end within weeks, not months or years.

Arrested Official Said Involved in 'Arafat Plot

Tunisian Authorities Arrest Yasin

JN0411101993 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 15

[Excerpt] Tunis—Sources in Tunis have affirmed that the Tunisian authorities have arrested 'Adnan Yasin, a PLO administrative and security official. Yasin was summoned to the Tunisian Interior Ministry for an undeclared matter although he enjoys diplomatic immunity.

The sources added that his arrest took place in light of information received by the PLO and the Tunisian authorities on his involvement in a plot to assassinate the PLO leader and other officials, including Mahmud 'Abbas, who signed the Palestinian self-rule agreement with Israel in Washington.

The sources noted that Amin al-Hindi, head of the PLO security organ, informed 'Arafat of the assassination plot. Meanwhile, the Tunisian authorities, which obtained similar information, arrested 'Adnan Yasin, searched his house, and found information affirming his involvement in the plot. The Tunisian authorities found in Yasin's possession a list of Palestinian personalities, whom Yasin planned to assassinate. Amin al-Hindi, head of the PLO security organ, was also on the list. Although the means of carrying out the plot were still unclear, the sources spoke about the possibility of bringing elements into Tunisia to carry out the assassinations since Yasin was authorized to issue permits to Palestinians to enter Tunisia. Yasin enjoyed 'Arafat's full confidence to the extent that he used to see him and attend his meetings without going through the strict security measures. [passage omitted]

Suspect Reportedly Linked With Mosad

PM0411111793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Tunisia Arrests Bal'awi's Deputy on Charges of Spying for Mosad"]

[Text] Tunis—The Tunisian security authorities have uncovered the biggest espionage and sabotage operation in PLO ranks for the Israeli intelligence organ "Mosad." The hero of this operation was 'Adnan Yasin, deputy to Hakam Bal'awi (Abu-Marwan), the Palestinian ambassador in Tunis. He used to run the embassy's affairs in Bal'awi's absence or even presence.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from high-ranking sources that 'Adnan Yasin (Abu-Hani), who is 48, was arrested nearly a week ago by the Tunisian security authorities, who summoned him to brief him on some important matters when Bal'awi was away. He was arrested and the interrogation began.

The Tunisian security services briefed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat regularly on the results of the investigation. Yasin's eldest son, Hani (24), was arrested for being implicated in the same espionage activities with his father without his knowledge.

The Tunisian security authorities got hold of clues about the operation from the French security authorities, who told the Tunisian security authorities of the shipment tc Tunis of a Mercedes car stuffed secretly with explosives and highly advanced detonation devices. 'Adnan Yasin took delivery of the car in the port. The Tunisian security services continued their monitoring and observation operation in complete secrecy until they managed to unravel all the clues about the operation and those involved in it.

Well-informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that 'Adnan Yasin broke down at the beginning of the investigation and began to reveal everything about the history of his collaboration with Mosad and the services he had offered. He tried to dissociate his son from any knowledge of anything relating to Mosad, saying that he had used him in some communications without his knowledge.

The sources added that 'Adnan Yasin had planted bugging and transmission devices in Mahmud 'Abbas' (Abu-Mazin's) office, located in Yughartah Street near the Palestinian president's office. He planted similar devices in the offices of Bal'awi and other leading PLO figures.

The sources said that the car which arrived in Tunis from France by sea was primed to blow up 'Arafat's office on Yughartah Street and that the advanced communication devices planted in the offices of Abu-Mazin and Bal'awi transmitted to a reception circuit in Tunis; it is not known whether the devices have been uncovered.

There is a prevalent state of utmost alarm among Palestinians in Tunisia and abroad, as 'Adnan Yasin used to oversee all the issues and files—secret and public—relating to the affairs of Palestinians living in Tunisia. He used also to supervise the entry of figures who come from the occupied territories to hold secret consultations with 'Arafat over current requirements, in addition to his supervision of the dates of the movements and travel of the Palestinian president and a number of leadership members during their secret movements by air and land.

Well-informed sources have said in this connection that Yasin supplied Mosad with [information on] all the secret and public activities of leadership members and PLO cadres. Even private parties used to be filmed and sent on video to Tel Aviv.

What surprises all Palestinians most about Yasin being implicated with Mosad is that he is not in need materially, as he lives like members of the Palestinian leadership live. He has a number of cars and lives in a luxury villa. And a number of leadership members, first and foremost 'Arafat personally, used to shower him with money and gifts.

Well-informed Palestinian sources have said that the Tunisian security authorities completed the investigation with Yasin and asked the PLO to take him, but 'Arafat asked them to keep him to give Palestinian security authorities enough time to complete the investigation and because he is going to get better protection while in the Tunisian security authorities' custody, especially as the PLO's prison in Hammam al-Shatt lacks tight security.

Following Yasin's arrest there were reports that he had been trading in drugs and forging hard currency bank notes. But eventually the real reason for his arrest was ascertained—his implication with Mosad.

Palestinian circles in Tunis do not rule out the assumption that, if Yasin collaborated with Mosad since the PLO's arrival in Tunis, then he was involved in the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir (Abu-Jihad) by offering facilities to the group that carried out the assassination operation against the Palestinian leader. Furthermore, his arrest gives the Palestinian security authorities answers to numerous questions which had remained a mystery with regard to puzzling security issues of extreme importance.

The Palestinian leadership, which has held a number of meetings to discuss the effects of this serious revelation, has decided to form a higher investigation committee not including Bal'awi, who is in charge of Palestinian security, because he is one of those who were spied on. According to well-informed Palestinian circles, the Tunisian security authorities may have listened to Bal'awi's testimony immediately after his arrival at Tunis airport, as he was immediately taken to the Tunisian Interior Ministry building. It was noted the day before yesterday that Bal'awi did not attend the reception held by the Algerian ambassador in Tunis on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the Algerian University. Abu-Mazin represented the PLO at this reception. It had been customary for Bal'awi not to be absent from such occasions, especially when he is present in Tunis.

Tunisia Denies Role in Spy Arrest

NC0411120693 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 4 (AFP)—Tunisian authorities have denied any role in the arrest here of a top PLO security official and his son accused of spying for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

The Information Department told AFP late Wednesday [3 November] that the authorities had "nothing to do" with the detention of 'Adnan Hasan Yasin and his son Hani, disclosed by a PLO official earlier the same day.

"If it is true, it is a purely Palestinian affair," it said.

The PLO official said the father and son had been arrested last week on charges of spying for Israel and bugging the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

They may also have been plotting to kill PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat in a car-bomb attack, he said.

'Adnan Yasin, an aide to PLO security chief Hakam Bal'awi, was allegedly found to have placed listening devices in the offices of Bal'awi and another top PLO official, Mahmud 'Abbas, who signed the autonomy deal with Israel.

Yasin was close to 'Arafat and often had direct access, the official said.

He said the Tunisian security services, tipped off by their French counterparts, arrested the two after monitoring clandestine broadcasts to the Israeli intelligence service Mossad.

The suspects were arrested and questioned by Tunisian police before being handed over to the Palestinian security services, the official said.

Hani Yasin was detained when the security services seized a car he was driving, which was "crammed with electronic spying equipment," he said. The car was "probably" going to be used in a car-bomb attack on 'Arafat.

'Arafat Receives Notes From Clinton, Christopher

LD0311175693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received today a message of thanks and appreciation from the U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The U.S. President expressed his great appreciation to the brother President Abu-'Ammar and said: We had the honor to host the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles at the White House, and we all have to work for fulfilling this promise of peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

The brother leader President Abu-'Ammar received also today a message of thanks and appreciation from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which he expressed his great appreciation to the brother President Abu-'Ammar. In his message, he mentioned the historic and brave step of signing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. He said: There is a lot of work waiting for us, and I look forward to working with you and the other parties in order to consolidate our common aim for a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the region.

Al-Hasan Named Head of Multilaterals Delegation

JN0411100493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Nov 93 pp 1, 21

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—In a surprise move, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has decided to appoint Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and an opponent of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, as head of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks, and to set up the self-rule authority of 20 members, whose names have not yet been specified.

Sources close to 'Arafat told SAWT AL-SHA'B that Hani al-Hasan, who is now back in Tunis after accompanying 'Arafat on his Morocco visit, will replace Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', who played a principal role in the secret talks in Oslo.

The same sources confirmed that 'Arafat will also give a post to 'Abbas Zaki, another Fatah Central Committee member who opposes the agreement and who is now accompanying 'Arafat on his Senegal visit.

Sources close to 'Arafat also revealed that the Fatah Central Committee decided at the conclusion of its meetings to set up the self-rule authority of 20 members whose names have not yet been specified. The decision provides that 10 of the members will come from inside the occupied territories, seven from the PLO Executive Committee, and three from the other Palestinian factions and Fatah Central Committee. It has also been agreed to hold a meeting for the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council on 12 November in Tunis.

The sources say 'Arafat's decision to appoint Hani al-Hasan head of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks and the possibility that he will give a post to 'Abbas Zaki is a result of the positive response which the Palestinian president received from his opponents inside the Fatah Central Committee, which met in Tunis, and following his decision to withdraw the Palestinian delegation, headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, from the Taba talks.

Hamas Spokesman on Shaykh Yasin's Letter, Self-Rule

JN0311162593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 25

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has admitted that his movement received a letter from Shaykh Ahmad Yasin on various issues, with emphasis on the stage through which the Palestinian cause is passing, the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and the self-rule elections.

In reply to a question by AL-DUSTUR, Ghawshah said: We cannot completely trust those who cited Shaykh Ahmad Yasin because he does not write himself what he wants to say and because of the circumstances of his incarceration in the Israeli enemy's jails.

Ghawshah went on to say: It must be known to all that Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin does not write his own letters. He speaks and the party present with him transcribes what he says. We must not forget that he is in prison and is banned from having any contacts with his relatives and brothers.

Gulf papers had cited Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in a letter he sent to the Hamas Movement from his prison as agreeing to participation in the self-rule elections and asking the Hamas Movement not to boycott these elections.

Eng. Ghawshah said: With respect to the self-rule elections and the self-rule itself, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin has made statements before and has given directives calling for the rejection of Palestinian self-rule, and the elections which are an instrument for implementing self-rule.

Ghawshah said: In the letter, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin supports a Palestinian council if it is a legislative one. Here one must pause. Hamas' concept completely differs from the concept of the proposed executive council for the proposed self-rule. He said: We support the formation of a legislative council if the Palestinian people elect it in a free and fair manner that reflects the political trends, and the weight of the various factions of our people in and outisde the occupied territories.

Ghawshah said: The Hamas Movement has always called for a legislative council to be formed through direct elections by the Palestinian people.

Ghawshah said: Hamas' stand rejecting the elections is not a stand taken in advance because self-rule has been proposed since the Madrid conference and because the Palestinian delegation had left for the Spanish capital knowing well that the ceiling it will get is self-rule.

Ghawshah said: The Hamas Movement has held consultations and sought the opinion of the brothers within the movement, primarily those in the occupied territories, including the prisons, and the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, and also those outside the occupied territories. The movement's Shura council discussed these recommendations and viewpoints and came out with a firm decision on 9 September 1992 rejecting self-rule, boycotting the elections, and calling on the Palestinian people not to participate in the self-rule.

Ghawshah said: Another round of consultations was held in light of the developments and another decision was made late in the summer of 1993 confirming the rejection of the self-rule and the participation in the elections. This is the stand by which Hamas has been abiding.

Ghawshah said: After Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's letter is verified and scrutinized it will be discussed by the movement's shura council at a meeting it will hold for this purpose. However, he declined to say when and where this meeting will take place. He added: Then,

things will be clarified. He said: The elections are expected to be held next July. Until that time, the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be put to the test and all the contradictions will surface, such as the issue of the release of the detainees, the settlers, and the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Eng. Ghawshah said: We expect many cases to surface by the beginning of next year. Then, the Palestinian people will discover the reality of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said: The question that is being posed now is whether the elections for self- rule will actually take place in July 1994? He said: There are indications showing that President Yasir 'Arafat is not in favor of holding elections and that enemy prime minister Rabin is of the same opinion, too. The Palestinian command, which has become accustomed to making unilateral decisions, is not inclined now to encourage any type of democracy and wants the two transitional years to pass under the direct rule of Yasir 'Arafat himself.

Ghawshah added: It has been noted that the national authority that was established by the PLO Central Council's decision in Tunis on 10 October 1993 did not clarify whether this authority will be temporary or permanent. This makes one believe that the national authority under Yasir 'Arafat will remain in office during the two year transition period.

Eng. Ghawshah concluded: If we take all these factors into consideration, we will find that the self-rule elections are neither urgent nor compelling and that the Hamas stand adopted in 1992 and 1993 will remain the same in the forthcoming stage.

PLO Officer Released by Israelis 3 Nov

NC0311175393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] REUTER reported that Israel today released PLO commander Captain Walid Ward, who was captured in 1990 when the Israeli navy intercepted the passenger boat in which he was traveling from Sidon to Cyprus. REUTER said that Ward was released on the Lebanese-Israeli border and later taken to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp where he was given a warm welcome. Shots were fired in the air in celebration.

Commentary Urges 'Full Withdrawal' From Gaza, Jericho

JN0311200693 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Nothing short of full Israeli withdrawal from all the territories of Gaza and Jericho can constitute a starting-point toward the desired peace. This is in line with the texts of the clause related to the Gaza-Jericho First as part of the interim period agreement. We say this now, as we see the Israeli enemy using its familiar methods to weasel out of its pledges with regard to the withdrawal of its troops from the occupied Palestinian territories.

Provocative Israeli equivocation now distorts and divides the meaning of withdrawal and ultimately aims at prejudicing the Palestinian authority over Palestinian territories. All this Israeli equivocation contradicts, in letter and spirit, the interim phase agreement.

Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho First means the evacuation of the Israeli occupation from all of the territories of Gaza and Jericho and handing over power to the Palestinian people as a prelude to implementing the other clauses and annexes related to the interim phase agreement. As for dwarfing the word and meaning of withdrawal, the way the occupation leaders fabricate matters, this lacks justice and peace. In fact, it obstructs movement toward peace, beginning with Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Yes, no full and comprehensive peace without full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal. This is the right thing. And nothing but the right thing shall prevail in the end. The will of our people, led by the PLO, is the winner because it is the will of justice and stark truth.

Algeria

Kidnappers Give Foreigners '1 Month' To Leave

NC0311190293 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 3 (AFP)—The kidnappers of three French nationals have given foreigners in Algeria one month to leave the country or face "sudden death", according to a copy of the warning obtained by AFP Wednesday [3 November].

The text, obtained from sources close to the investigation into the kidnapping, said: "Leave the country. We give you one month. Anybody remaining after that date will be to blame for their own sudden death. There will be no kidnapping and it will be more violent than in Egypt."

The message, which was given to the last French hostage to be released, Michele Thevenot, was handwritten in French on a page from a notebook and signed by Abu Meriem, hitherto unknown to Algerian police.

Another sentence in Arabic was addressed to Algerian authorities and warned that the "tyrant" would "pay dearly for its misdeeds."

The French Foreign Ministry has confirmed that the kidnappers gave Thevenot a "handwritten message," but has not revealed its contents, other than saying that it repeated "the usual threats against the foreign community" in Algeria.

Thevenot and two other French embassy employees were released on Sunday after being held hostage since October 24.

An Algerian Interior Ministry communique, giving the first official version of the release of the three, on Tuesday said four kidnappers were killed but gave few details of the circumstances.

The statement said nine kidnappers were involved, but they were designated as "kidnappers" and "criminals" rather than "terrorists," the term used by Algerian security forces to refer to Islamic fundamentalists.

'Deal' for Hostage Release Alleged

PM0311170893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Randah Taqiyy-al-Din report: "Deal Between Paris And Islamists Facilitates Release of French in Algeria"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, Paris, AL-HAYAH—There is much talk in Algerian political circles about a "deal" between the French Interior Ministry and "the Armed Islamic Group" in Algeria that led to the three French employees' release the day before yesterday.

Algerian security organs announced the day before yesterday evening that they had freed two hostages and that seven kidnappers had been killed in the operation. Then Algerian television announced that the third hostage had been released between Sunday night and Monday morning.

A well-informed source has told AL-HAYAH that "contacts between the French Foreign Ministry and the Armed Islamic Group claiming responsibility for the abduction led eventually to the outcome that has been achieved." The source disclosed that the deal took place between a high-ranking figure from the French Foreign Ministry and one of the (officially dissolved) Islamic Salvation Front's lawyers with support from Cheik Abdelkader Hachani.

The source added that the contacts began two days after the French citizens' abduction and that the agreement on the release deal was reached after four days of negotiations. The source pointed out that indications of the deal emerged two days before, when the Islamic Group distributed a statement in the mosques, talking about "releasing the detainees on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the November revolution."

It was noted that the news of the release was included in the one o'clock bulletin the day before yesterday in a very low-key manner. It was the last item on the bulletin. The same happened with regard to the third hostage's release. It was mentioned at the end of the news bulletin. The operation to release the two hostages was described at midday as "liberation," whereas only the the word "release" was used in the news bulletin referring to the third hostage.

Among other indications of a "deal" is the statement issued by the French Foreign Ministry and read by French Ambassador to Algeria Bernard Kessedjian at Houari Boumediene Airport, in which he said that the French pledged to keep silent. The source says that the message conveyed by the Armed Islamic Group to Michele Thevenot falls within the framework of maneuvering "in order to keep from public opinion the truth about what happened between the French Interior Ministry and intermediaries close to the Salvation Front." The source stresses that "security authorities had no knowledge of this deal." [passage omitted]

Malek on Kidnappings, Action Against Terrorism

LD0311204893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] In an interview with French television Channel Three, Mr. Redha Malek, member of the Higher State Council and head of the government, attributed the responsibility for kidnapping the three Frenchmen to an armed Muslim group, all members of which have been identified.

Mr. Redha Malek said those elements belong to the same group that kidnapped and murdered two French nationals last September in the Sidi Belabes area. The head of the government said that the majority of those elements were

trained in Afghanistan, and he stressed that no negotiations or talks were held with the kidnappers.

Concerning the fight against terrorism, Mr. Redha Malek said it is a lengthy task, but the Algerian Government is determined to pursue it with decisiveness and resolve, and law will triumph in the end. Answering a question on whether France is considered a hidden base for the terrorists, Mr. Redha Malek said he hopes this has finished as the Algerian Government has received assurances in this respect from the French Government. Algeria asks France and other European countries not to become a place of transit for weapons, and also to impose restraint on the elements who live on their territory and call for murder.

In conclusion he said that if Algeria submits to terrorism it would mean the fall of the whole of North Africa and Egypt.

Authorities Begin 'Purge' To Halt Extremism

LD0311150993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The Algerian authorities have started a purge in different parts of the capital to eliminate extremism in the country after the recent escalation of the wave of kidnapping foreigners.

It has been learned that the Algerian police forces have since last night started surrounding many places south and east of the capital, particularly the places used as strongholds by armed groups.

Security sources in the capital talk about the existence of many roadblocks to search vehicles and pedestrians in the east and south of the capital Algiers.

It is worth pointing out that this purge, launched by the Algerian security forces, came after the freeing last Sunday of the three French employees who worked at the French Consulate in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Kill 13 'Terrorists'

LD0311202193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] A large-scale search has been conducted by security forces, supported by special army units, in districts in eastern Algiers: Badjarah, La Glaciere, and other adjacent districts.

According to some sources, the security forces were reported to have arrested some terrorists. This operation falls within the framework of searching for terrorist elements involved in numerous operations of assassinations and sabotage.

On the other hand, security authorities have reported that 13 terrorists were killed in Mostaganem, Blida, Algiers, and Jijel. Another seven terrorists were arrested in Tipaza and Jijel. One automatic pistol, a quantity of bullets, and a rifle were also recovered and the terrorists were identified.

League Welcomes Closure of Security Centers

LD0311202993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The Algerian League for Human Rights has published a statement in which it welcomes the announcement regarding the closure of the so-called security centers in the south of the country.

This welcome is justified by the fact that the call for closing the security centers has been and still is one of the essential demands of the League and forms an aspect of its struggle.

While the Algerian League for Human Rights blesses these closures, which have brought the smile back to various households, it demands that those who are being pursued by the law be brought before judges of public law. This demand stems from its belief that the law code of our institutions is strong enough to deal with all the cases.

The announcement of the closure of security centers, which we hope will be followed by other decisions aimed at removing the restrictions on the liberties of citizens, is likely to spread trust in the efforts aimed at realizing a national concord.

Egypt

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives at Sidi Barrani for Visit

Received by Mubarak

NC0411100093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Sidi Barrani, 4 Nov (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, arrived in Sidi Barrani, Marsa Matruh Governorate, this morning on a visit of several hours.

President Husni Mubarak was at the head of those receiving Colonel al-Qadhdhafi upon his arrival at the Command of the Western Military Region in Sidi Barrani. Al-Qadhdhafi was also received by a number of ministers.

Talks Begin; Projects Discussed

NC0411102993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] This morning President Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, began talks in Sidi Barrani, Marsa Matruh. At the same time, the Egyptian and Libyan delegations held talks at which they discussed a number of bilateral projects in various fields that are scheduled for realization within the cooperation framework. They

also discussed the possibility of promoting cooperation to benefit both the Egyptian and Libyan peoples. These projects primarily include transportation, communications, and telecommunications, and they are designed to encourage cooperation and investment and increase bilateral trade.

Foreign Minister Musa Leaves for Israel 4 Nov

NC0411073493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this morning on a quick working visit to Israel during which he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

He will also hold talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the latest developments in the peace process, particularly in the Palestinian-Israeli track, and on overcoming the current differences and crisis facing the Gaza-Jericho negotiations in Taba after the Palestinian delegation suspended these negotiations on Tuesday.

Musa met yesterday with the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th. Their discussions dealt with the outcome and meetings of the committee and the reasons that prompted the Palestinian delegation to suspend the negotiations.

Civil Aviation Chief Leaves for Israel

NC3110114393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0954 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Head of the Civil Aviation Authority, Major General 'Ali Ziku, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Israel this morning for a 2-day visit.

During his stay in Israel, Ziku will hold talks with Israeli civil aviation officials on renewing the provisions of an agreement signed between the two countries in 1982 and introducing a provision on security recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Project Approved for Railway Line to Tel Aviv

NC3110165093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that Cairo has agreed in principle to Israel's project to build a railway line between Cairo and Tel Aviv to facilitate communications and serve the interests of the Middle East market in the region.

We learned that Israel has entrusted the Zionist expert Eli Daniel with doing a complete study of this project. The project depends on exploiting the shortest routes possible for the railway line between the two countries. It also includes feasibility studies on implementing this project. These studies point out that establishing this line will lead to increasing the trade between Egypt and Israel.

In light of this, about two weeks ago Israel started drawing up the engineering charts for this line. These studies are being prepared by a committee supervised by experts from the Israeli Ministry of Transport. In essence, they are based on reviving the railway line that linked Cairo and Tel Aviv before 1948.

After this line is finished, Israel hopes to build other railway lines linking it and the other countries in the region.

Paper: No Alternative to Israeli Withdrawal

NC0411072993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM stresses that the Israeli side must understand that the Palestinians cannot accept any alternative to withdrawal or agree voluntarily to make more concessions.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the Palestinians' argument is as clear as daylight, and it is not difficult for the Israelis to understand it. It notes in this respect the statement by the head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, in which he said that there is a special appendix in the self-government agreement that clearly refers to withdrawal and not redeployment, which in fact means reoccupation.

The paper also notes that the difference between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is over the extent of the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. It says Israel's withdrawal proposal did not envisage a real and complete withdrawal, but a mere redeployment of the Israeli forces.

AL-AHRAM adds: The Israeli security considerations and the protection of the Jewish settlements that were built in various parts of the Gaza Strip during the past 26 years of occupation are Israel's pretexts for this offer. The Palestinians, meanwhile, are insisting on full Israeli withdrawal from all the territories of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area and that the Palestinian self-government authority be responsible for supervising all the exit points, bridges, and borders in addition to the internal security responsibilities.

Concluding its editorial, the paper adds that neither the road to peace nor the process for a comprehensive settlement are easy, but are fraught with obstacles, and they will need more patience, persistence, and perseverance.

Labor's Husayn Views Mubarak's U.S. Visit, Aid

NC0211205093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Oct 93 p 5

[Article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn: "We Have Received the Highest Aid Since the 1950's But What Are the Results?"]

[Excerpts] We do not attach to Mubarak's U.S. visit the importance that others give it. Although we know that the most important decisions are made in Washington, we believe that this is a transient symptom of corruption that will end, allowing Egypt to regain sovereignty over its land and affairs. It will then make its own decisions in Cairo with the help of its sincere sons, instead of being dictated to by the U.S. Administration's men behind our backs. The rulers do not share our view and are greatly distressed whenever they perceive some coolness in the "beloved's" behavior.

The U.S. behavior does indeed cause increasing concern to the rulers whose very breath hangs on U.S. pleasure. This was apparent during Mubarak's first visit. Concern was heightened during the last visit (which followed quickly on the heels of the first). Signs of ill omen surfaced openly when the U.S. Administration took care that the official to receive the Egyptian president should be Mr Djerejian, a mere under secretary.

It is true that Mubarak's previous talks with U.S. President Clinton were accompanied by a hostile media uproar, much louder than during the last visit, but this too is connected with the Djerejian gesture, signifying lack of respect for Egypt and a sign that the visit was "stillborn."

In his previous talks, President Mubarak went to Washington, loudly declaring that he was the hero of the war against "Islamic fundamentalism" in the region and the adversary of the exporters of terrorism in Iran and Sudan. He was made to understand (during the talks and through the media) that Egypt's rulers are not required to show initiative but only to act within the parameters set for them. He was made to understand that if the United States wanted to attack Sudan and Iran, it would determine the method and timing and pick its assistants by itself. This meant that it alone would decide if there was a need for an Egyptian role or not in such a mission. All this influenced the latest talks. This time there was no loud Egyptian voice and requests were limited to "maintaining respectability" [talab al-sitr], meaning that U.S. aid should continue at its current level. This was accompanied by an offer to do any service in Somalia, if the U.S. Administration wanted.

This modest agenda naturally required little time and the private meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton lasted only 15 minutes. Everything (the two presidents' talks plus the two delegations' talks) did not last more than one hour.

Alas for the loss of Egyptian prestige and Egypt's role!

A pause is needed to examine this issue from all sides. We are at the conclusion of a stage the consequences of which have now been revealed. It is our duty, in light of these consequences, to determine our gains and losses (if we have gained anything at all) in order to face the new stage with a clearer perspective and greater resolve, God willing. [passage omitted]

If we compare the U.S. aid to Israel with that given to Egypt, we will notice that the United States broke the promise it made during the Camp David talks that economic aid to Egypt would equal that given to Israel. Actually, Israel publicly receives twice the economic aid that Egypt gets. If we take into account the aid Israel gets (under the counter), we will find that it gets four times as much (although it has a population of four million and Egypt 57 million). [passage omitted]

However, this numerical comparison is not our primary concern. What is more important is that Israel gets its U.S. aid in ready cash and consequently can use its dollar credits to import what it wants at any time it wants, from the countries offering the best commodities at the lowest price. In Egypt's case, the U.S. aid money is subject to restrictions. The Egyptian Government is required to import its goods from the United States, and to transport them on U.S. ships (these two requirements push the cost up by 30 percent). The U.S. Government is also the party that decides how the aid money is spent and binds the Egyptian Government to its decisions. It decides investment, replacement, and renovation priorities. The U.S. Government is not satisfied with this, but wants to supervise everything, and for this reason has established a gigantic institution employing thousands of experts and advisers who interfere with the work of every ministry, governorate, and institution in every corner of Egypt. Their salaries consume a huge percentage of the aid money (in contrast, only three employees supervise how the aid to Israel is spent).

Therefore, if we calculate the net value of the U.S. aid to the Egyptian economy, we will find that it is much smaller than the given figure, though it is still true that it is greater than the aid given to any other country (except Israel). We saw how in return we have given the United States the keys and secrets of the Egyptian economy (in cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank) and this takes us to a still more serious issue.

We have said that the aid that major powers give to other countries is governed by geopolitical and strategic considerations, not merely direct economic calculations. While Israel and Egypt get the most aid (more than Russia itself), what are the strategic objectives and calculations behind it?

Since 1975 the U.S. objectives have become clear and have remained basically unchanged, although some necessary additions and amendments have been made in order to attain the goals step by step. These goals are:
1.Establishing U.S. dominance over the Arab region (particularly the Gulf oil region).
2. Isolating the region from any international alliances that might strengthen it against U.S. domination efforts.
3. Boosting Israeli power and seeking to expand its role.
4. Weakening the Arabs (militarily and economically) and dismantling inter-Arab solidarity. This especially applies to weakening and isolating Egypt and isolating the Gulf countries from the other Arabs. [passage omitted]

Egypt's assumption of a leading and effective role, even if it is going through its worst conditions, runs counter to the goal of fragmenting the Arabs and Muslims, which is a pivotal goal if the U.S.-Zionist domination were to succeed. In the past two decades, the Egyptian leadership has done all what it was asked to do, but that did not make it fully secure. The Americans gave it money in return for its positions, but they did not give it any leading, strategic role to play. The fact is that the Egyptian and Israeli positions complemented each other within the U.S. strategic scheme. For each successful step made, the two countries obtained more aid. But while Israel received extra military and political support in addition to the economic aid, Egypt was weakened militarily and economically and its role in leading the Arab region was eroding. With this decline in its stature and influence, it was natural for things to reach the point of asking: Does the Egyptian Government really deserve all this money?

The short-sighted people did not see all this. They were delighted that the U.S. aid increased following the Camp David Accord, thinking that this confirmed their increasing importance, while in fact it was in return for their departure from Islamic and Arab principles and, consequently, in return for accepting seeing their stature and that of the Arabs shrink. It is true that our friends thought that their stature was ebbing temporarily, but that was not the objective of their enemies.

They were also delighted to see the aid increasing following the regime's collaboration in striking at Iraq. Again they announced that the increase in aid was proof that their weight in the region was increasing, but it was only a monetary increase and their weight shrank by all other standards. This became very clear during the Madrid conference, which was held in accordance with the U.S.-backed Israeli conditions. Despite the Egyptian diplomatic efforts to weaken spirits and to drag everybody to the conference, it was clear that the Egyptian role in implementing the U.S. scheme became limited. This is why our rulers were not given a "raise" in aid, in fact the aid program was narrowly approved. But following the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the Israeli public contacts with other Arab parties (without the need for the Egyptian mediator), the reduction in aid has become an item on the agenda, not because of the crisis in the U.S. budget as they claim, but because the rulers in Egypt have done their job.

What is left for them to do regarding the Middle East issue? Persuade the Gulf states to back up the Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian federation, which is the nucleus of Greater Israel? This is already taking place through the United States and Israel directly, and there is no longer any need for the Egyptian cover to avoid embarrassment now that there is a better cover, the Palestinian cover. Does progress on the Syrian track need Egyptian mediation? What for, if direct contacts, at the highest level, are taking place among Syria, Israel, and the United States? The Syrian foreign minister met Clinton a few days ago in Washington.

The U.S. assistance was not given out of love or emotions. It was established and passed so that Egypt would weaken itself by itself and bring its own house down. This goal has not changed; it will continue, and there will be more persistence in attaining it without having to pay a high price for it. The same scenario (and consequently the aid money) will go to those who have a new role to play.

What the Palestinians are required to do now is hard and bitter. They are required to make major concessions and play the role of bad guy. Some time will have to pass for them to be tamed. During this time, their political and social affairs will be rearranged and a network of beneficiaries and agents will be put in positions of power. This cause deserves the U.S. and other aid money (or at least part of it) more. [passage omitted]

Now that we clearly see what has happened to the Egyptian economy and the current and expected disasters are no longer in dispute, it is the duty of the national forces to try to change the course, so that we can prepare ourselves gradually to be less dependent on U.S. aid and so that we can think for ourselves and reform our economy. All this, as I have said, takes time, blood, and sweat. But what is important is to start without delay or reluctance. But for an effective and sound start to begin, we always say that political reforms must come first. Political reforms simply mean that we enable an alliance of national forces to replace the current rulers in power through free and public elections. [passage omitted]

The current rulers are a hopeless case. Some of them are involved in hostile schemes, and their survival depends on this involvement, and some others are either not aware of anything or simply unable to make any reforms and fight corruption. The situation needs a clear vision of how to get out of the impasse through self-reliance. What is even more important than clarity of vision is the determination of men, because the situation is quite serious. All this requires changing the team of rulers.

We are not fooling people or promising them easy victory. God's victory is certain, but it will not be easy or without a price. [passage omitted]

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0311162993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, arrived in Cairo today on a five-day visit to Egypt. He was welcomed at the airport by Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, and senior armed forces commanders.

The Saudi minister will hold talks on military cooperation between the two countries. He will also inspect a number of military production plants and visit a number of military positions.

In an arrival statement, Prince Sultan expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt and praised the Egyptian leaders and people. He indicated that he will meet with President Husni Mubarak, adding that the purpose of the visit is to bolster cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He said that contacts between the two countries are continuing, and that he will discuss ways to strengthen cooperation between the Egyptian and Saudi Armed Forces.

Field Marshal Tantawi affirmed that cooperation between Egypt and Saudi is a basis for security and stability in the Arab countries, and that the visit aims at strengthening cooperation between the two countries and exchanging military expertise.

Zairian President Arrives in Cairo 30 Oct

NC3010144493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko arrived in Cairo this afternoon.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi received the Zairian president upon arrival.

Mubarak Calls Assembly-Council Session 11 Nov

NC0411065993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree inviting the Consultative Council for a meeting at 1100 on Tuesday [9 November] to open the 14th ordinary term. The president also invited the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council to a joint session at noon on Thursday, 11 November 1993. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Arrest 400 Suspected Militants

NC0311160693 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 3 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces arrested 400 suspected Islamic militants Wednesday [3 November], police said.

Two hundred guns and ammunition were seized in the operation in al-Minufiyah province, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of Cairo, police said.

Some 1,350 other people were detained for suspected involvement in common law offences.

Three Islamic militants were hanged in Cairo Wednesday for murder and armed robbery, raising to 18 the number of militants executed in Egypt in less than six months.

President Husni Mubarak transferred trials of suspected militants to military courts last December, in a bid to stop a wave of violence that has killed 225 people since the militants declared war on the authorities in March 1992.

Policeman Shot Dead by 'Fundamentalists'

NC0311223193 Paris AFP in English 2220 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 3 (AFP)—A policeman was gunned down by suspected Moslem fundamentalists Wednesday [3 November] evening in Aswan, southern Egypt, police said.

19-year-old Yasir 'Arafat Tulbah was killed by unknown assailants who escaped.

More than 200 people have died—including several foreign tourists—since early 1992 in confrontations between security forces and Islamic militants.

Economy Minister Notes Improvement in Economy

NC0311201593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1646 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud has affirmed that minor amendments will be made in the foreign currency bill after it has been reviewed by the State Council. We will not need currency controls after that, he said.

Speaking at a news conference today after meeting with trade counselors and attaches, the minister said that the Egyptian economy is sound, despite the effects on the tourism season and exports. He explained that this will not affect the value of the Egyptian pound against foreign currencies or the availability of foreign currency.

The minister expected a big leap forward in the Egyptian economy, noting that inflation has dropped from 23 percent to about 10 percent and the interest rate is about 4 percent higher than the inflation rate. This is an encouraging start and is due to sound policies and the efforts of those supervising them.

The economy minister said that President Husni Mubarak has devoted special attention to economic reform in Egypt. He has always been optimistic about the economy's future and has been able, because of his influence and good relations with many state leaders, to do a great deal. The United States canceled $7 billion in military loans to Egypt. The Arab states have also canceled $7 billion, bringing the total of canceled loans to $14 billion. This was done before the agreement was reached with the IMF and the World Bank on the economic reform program.

He added that, according to this program, the IMF and the World Bank agreed to drop 50 percent of Egypt's debts.

The economy minister expressed his confidence about the success of the second stage of the economic reform program. [passage indistinct]

Libya

Officials Hold Talks With Sudanese Delegation

LD0311194793 Tripoli JANA in English 1649 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Harth [Nov] 3, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Planning, Trade and Finance this morning met with Dr. 'Awad Ahmad Ibhaz, the Sudanese minister for presidential affairs who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to take part in the meetings of the Libyan-Sudanese integration working committee which began in Tripoli on Monday evening.

At this meeting, which was attended by Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, the Sudanese minister of state at the presidential bureau, the secretary general of the World Popular Friendship Council in the Sudan, Faruq al-Bashri, and the secretary general of the General Secretariat for Integration between the Great Jamahiriya and the Sudan, the two sides discussed ways to develop and lend support to achieving integration between the two peoples in the Great Jamahiriya and the Sudan respectively.

Sudanese Minister on Western 'Campaign'

LD0311205793 Tripoli JANA in English 1627 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Harth [Nov] 3, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—'Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, the Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs in the Great Jamahiriya reiterated the solidarity of his country with the Great Jamahiriya in resisting the unjust harsh measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriya by UN Security Council Resolution 748.

In an interview with the 'AL-JAMAHIRIYAH' newspaper, al-Jaz said that this harsh campaign conducted by the Western countries was not aimed at the Great Jamahiriya alone but was aimed at all peace and freedom loving peoples. Concerning the steps taken towards unity between the Great Jamahiriya and the Sudan, 'Awad Ahmad al-Jaz said that these steps were taking place in a friendly manner and were progressing on all levels with a steady stream of delegations exchanging visits between the two countries in order to realise the joint projects drawn up between the two countries.

Concerning the new world order, the minister of state for presidential affairs in the Sudan said that this order had been created by the United States which was trying to impose it on the world. It is a system where countries would be allowed to intervene in the affairs of other countries and where a sole power would be in control by exploiting the United Nations and wielding the various political, social, economic institutions towards its own ends.

On the campaign being conducted by the United States to lift the Arab boycott of Israel, 'Awad Ahmad al-Jaz said that the Sudan supported the continuing of the Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy and opposed any unilateral action to lift the boycott.

Paper Urges West To 'Close Lockerbie File'

LD0311181093 Tripoli JANA in English 1645 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Harth [Nov] 3, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The 'AL-SHAMS' newspaper said yesterday that the West should close the Lockerbie file and permanently relegate it to the index of history as an example of the force of law gaining the upper hand over the law of the jungle.

In its issue published yesterday 'AL-SHAMS' commented on the comments made by Frankfurt's head of prosecution and the judge entrusted with the Lockerbie investigation on German radio saying 'the summons issued against two Libyans will come to nothing for a lack of sufficient evidence to indict them'. 'AL-SHAMS' commented on what the judge said by saying that the West should close the Lockerbie file and permanently relegate it to the annals of history, because of the lack of evidence after the West lost its pretext for a blockade.

The newspaper added that the West should close the Lockerbie file because there is no justification for forcing the handing over or trying of the suspects neither in the East nor West. 'AL-SHAMS' said that Volkwat's statements constitutes the legal end to what the West has dubbed the 'Lockerbie crisis'.

The newspaper said that Lockerbie incident involved a terrifying plane crash, without the least doubt, but like other plane crashes it caused feelings of pain and rage.

The newspaper said that because the incident occurred at a time of an escalating conflict between international official terrorism, headed by the United States and between the forces of freedom, the United States believed it could exploit this incident to its advantage in this conflict, by assessing the pros and cons and arbritrarily choosing someone to pin the blame on.

Mauritania

'Arafat Reports on Visit, Peace Process

LD0411044693 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Report on talks between Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, including an "exclusive interview" with 'Arafat by correspondent Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Yahi in Nouakchott on 3 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Nouakchott this evening at the end of a very brief visit to our country. He was seen off at Nouakchott airport by Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, his excellency the

president of the republic, who was accompanied by the prime minister and chairmen of the two parliamentary chambers. [passage omitted]

Before his departure, the Palestinian president made a statement to the national press in which he lauded the results of this visit and said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I am proud to say that it was, first of all, a fraternal visit. The talks alone were important and positive, however, as I acquainted my brother President Taya with all the details that are facing us in the talks that are taking place at more than one level, including the reasons behind the suspension of the talks in Taba, because we expected the faithful and scrupulous implementation of the agreement we signed in Washington.

I have also acquainted the president with the details of our moves in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas. I have thanked his excellency for the position taken by his foreign minister at the foreign ministers' meetings of the Arab League, which was fraternal, committed, and constructive. The meeting was decisive with regard to the statement that was issued in which the ministers stressed the importance of the step that we have taken, because it is a step of special significance. I also thanked his excellency for the foreign minister's assistance to us at the Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

I also explained to the president the difficult situation being experienced by our people, especially that we are receiving a destroyed homeland as a result of the occupation. All its infrastructure has been totally destroyed, and we are in need of assistance from our brothers and friends throughout the world. I can proudly say that the talks were positive and constructive, as well as important, as they always are when we meet with his excellency the president. [end recording]

The Palestinian president held two sessions of talks with his excellency the president of the republic during his visit. The first took place with the attendance of the members of both delegations, and the second was one-on-one. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of his visit to our country, the Palestinian president gave an exclusive interview, in which he referred to the peace process in the Middle East and the establishment of Palestinian authority in Jericho and Gaza and the influence of the Israeli municipal election on the progress of the peace process. The interview was conducted by colleague Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Yahi. Here is the full text of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Yahi] Your Excellency Mr. President, thank you on behalf of Mauritanian Radio for agreeing—despite your many engagements—to talk to Mauritanians, who want to know the latest development in the situation with regard to the peace efforts and the peace prospects in our region—the Middle East in general, and particularly our country Palestine. What are the latest developments of the situation?

['Arafat] First, I want to address greetings and appreciation to my brother President Taya and to the fraternal Mauritanian people for the principled, committed, and genuine stance that they have taken and continue to take beside the true jihad of our people and beside everything that can advance our cause. Therefore, I would like to repeat once more—in the name of our masses and our children and strugglers—all our thanks, love, and appreciation to my brother President Maaouya and to the fraternal people of Mauritania for this noble, genuine, and principled stance. God willing, we will soon pray in the first of the two Kiblahs and the third holy mosques—in Holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, I would like to assure my brothers—the brave people of Mauritania—and say to them that their brothers are still committed to the pledge and that we would continue, God willing, step-by-step until the Palestinian flag is hoisted on the walls and minarets and churches of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

As you know, the agreement that has been signed is an agreement on principles for a transitional period. At the same time, however, there is a final period that is manifested by a total withdrawal from the Gaza sector and the area of Jericho, where the Palestinian flag will be hoisted for the first time over the first liberated Palestinian land. This has very important meaning at the local, Arab, Islamic, and international levels. There is no doubt that the talks that are now taking place between us and Israel are difficult and arduous.

The Israeli negotiator at the Taba talks on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho has actually tried to interpret the agreement wrongly, very far removed from the contents of what has been agreed upon in the agreement of principles that we signed in Washington—I mean the total withdrawal from the Gaza sector and the area of Jericho. This compelled the Palestinian negotiator to suspend the negotiations until we go back to the cosponsors of the conference and our friends in the world so that they can help us to leap over this obstacle that the Israeli negotiator is trying to place in our path.

This is because it is assumed that the negotiations on the Gaza sector and Jericho would end on 13 December, when the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza sector and the Jericho area is to begin over a period of one to four months, during which all authorities and all places will be handed over completely to the Palestinian national authority. At its recent meeting, our central council announced its establishment in implementation of the 1974 decision of our Palestine National Council, which said that a Palestinian national authority should be established over any liberated part of Palestinian soil, or any part from which the Israelis withdraw.

As is known, at the good initiative of President Clinton, a meeting was held in Washington of those wishing to contribute at the beginning of last month. Contributions were pledged. We thank all those who contributed. I would like to say, however, that despite all this, the total

collected is little compared to our needs. This is because the Israeli occupation—as is known—has destroyed the entire Palestinian infrastructure. [passage omitted]

We have the resolve and the will and faith in God that we—with the help of our good brothers and faithful friends—will be able to overcome all obstacles. [passage omitted]

[Yahi] Mr. President, do you expect that the results of the Israeli municipal election will affect the peace process in the area?

['Arafat] No. These elections are merely giving an opinion, no more and no less, regarding Israeli tendencies and the mood of the Israeli man in the street.

[Yahi] During your recent European tour, did you notice that the Europeans were convinced about peace and about the Palestinian role in peace?

['Arafat] I would like to clearly point out that the Europeans contributed more at the Washington meeting. In 48 hours' time, a meeting will be held in Paris of the ad hoc committee of contributors, the committee that is composed of: the United States, Canada, the EEC, Northern Europe, and Japan, as well as Saudi Arabia—representing the Gulf states—and Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and Israel. It will examine the projects that the national authority needs at the start of its era beginning 13 December.

[Yahi] There are other fronts in the Middle East where the peace process has not experienced great development. Briefly, how do you evaluate the dynamism of the peace process in general in the Middle East region?

['Arafat] It is inevitable that we should clearly and frankly say that we see what has been accomplished with us and our brothers in Jordan as merely steps along the path of comprehensive and just peace in the region which should embrace all tracks—the Palestinian track, the Jordanian track, the Syrian track, and the Lebanese track—so that we can reach a comprehensive and just solution in our region, where a comprehensive and just peace cannot be established unless it embraces all these Arab tracks. Therefore, we hope that progress will be made on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks so that we can together march in this comprehensive and just peace.

There is an opposition—a Palestinian opposition—that we respect. We have democracy, however, and our democracy as you know is genuine. We have the democracy of [word indistinct] of the gun. It is a difficult democracy. Nevertheless, we are proud of it. Hence, it is the right of every detachment, or organization, or any party or body, or any group to voice their view. Ultimately, however, the decision rests with the majority. I may differ with you in my opinion, but I am prepared to fight for the sake of the freedom of your view.

As our constitution says, the majority respects the views of the minority, and the minority honors the views of the majority. Our people are aware, and they are struggling people who have gained what they could despite difficult Arab circumstances that accompanied the changes that took place at the international level—the end of the Soviet Union, and the new world order, and what took place in the Arab region following the Gulf crisis.

[Yahi] Mr. President, one last question. Can you determine a definite date for your return personally to the occupied territories—to Gaza and Jericho?

['Arafat] God willing, as we were discussing yesterday and the day before yesterday at the meeting of the Executive and Central Committees, the Palestinian leadership body—naturally, myself included—will be at the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho at these places. I expect this to take place either in January of the coming year or in February, God willing. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives in Nouakchott

LD0411050093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri arrived in Nouakchott this evening on a visit to our country. He was welcomed on arrival by Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the national press, Mr. Dembri pointed out that he was carrying a message from His Excellency Ali Kafi to his excellency the president of the republic.

[Begin Dembri recording] Before anything else, I would like to express my happiness at being here among the Mauritanian brothers in my second country. [passage omitted]

As a special envoy, I am carrying a message to His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya from his brother His Excellency Ali Kafi, the chairman of the Higher State Council, containing several points relating first to the common destiny in our Maghreb Union, and also the points within the framework of consultation and exchange of views among the presidents.

Naturally, during this visit, I will have talks with my brother his excellency the Mauritanian foreign minister regarding the current situation in the area and the future prospects of building our Arab Maghreb. [end recording]

Shortly after his arrival, the Algerian minister held a working session with the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Ties Established With Bosnia

AB0311132993 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Mauritania and Bosnia-Herzegovina decided on 1 November to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, a communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the MAURITANIAN NEWS

AGENCY stated. The communique added that both countries are desirous of promoting the already existing relations of friendship and developing mutually beneficial cooperation in all sectors.

Morocco

Opposition Parties Asked To Join Government

LD0311224293 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] We begin this news bulletin with a communique from the Ministry of Royal Palaces, Protocol, and Medals.

His majesty the king, may God make him victorious, on Wednesday, 3 November 1993, received representatives of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], the Istiqlal Party, and the Organization for Popular and Democratic Action, in the royal palace in Rabat.

Mohamed Yazgi, USFP first deputy secretary general, accompanied by 'Abd-al-Wahid Aradi; Istiqlal Secretary General Mohamed Boucetta, accompanied by Mohamed Douiri; and Mohamed Ait Ider, secretary general of the Organization for Popular and Democratic Action, accompanied by Mohamed Lamrini, attended the meeting.

His majesty analyzed in detail the memorandum that the three political parties submitted to him yesterday. His majesty, God protect him, confirmed his determination to respond to the legitimate desires of his people for change and development. He explained the reasons that made him propose that these parties, which constituted the opposition during the previous parliamentary period, participate in the government he intends to form in the near future.

He added that he would guarantee his full support to the above-mentioned parties to enable the government that will be formed continue for a period of not less than three years.

His majesty, may God make him victorious, clarified the reasons behind his reserving four portfolios—the premiership and the foreign, interior, and justice ministries.

The political party representatives who attended the meeting thanked the king for the care he showed them and explained some points that were in the written memorandum they submitted to him. They promised to provide an respond in the next 24 hours.

After that, his majesty the king received Ali Yata, the secretary general of the Progress and Socialism Party who was accompanied by Moulay Ismail Alaoui. He briefed them on the development of the situation and confirmed that the results would appear soon.

Sudan

SPLA Factions Clash; Government Presses Offensive

AB0311193793 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 2 Nov 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In Sudan, the cease-fire agreed between the rival faction of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] two weeks ago has proved to be a painfully short-lived affair with reports today that forces of the SPLA-United faction commanded by William Nyoun has launched attacks on positions of John Garang's faction of the SPLA. As though that was not enough, the Khartoum Government continues to press its offensive on the southern Sudanese rebels. The BBC's Robin Denslow is just back from traveling through southern Sudan with both rival factions of the SPLA. Robin White asked him whether, with all these problems facing them, it was a case that both wings of the SPLA were now on the retreat?

[Begin recording] [Denslow] Not as much as it was. The Khartoum Government launched two offensives out of Juba in July. One went on the west bank of the Nile down through Yai to the village of Morobo and cut off the mine supply route into west Equatoria up towards (Baragazal). And that was a pretty serious blow for the SPLA and for Garang there. The other thrust has come down from Juba toward Nimule, but has been stopped about 30 miles south of Juba and from that front I went up with the Garang's forces, and they are pretty confident that they can hold the Khartoum troops off in the Sunduru Hills for the moment around the village of Lobonock where there is very intensive fighting going on.

[White] I was going to ask that. Did you see fighting yourself?

[Denslow] Yes, the Khartoum Government just started an offensive the morning we arrived. They made 23 bombings around the village Lobonock. There was a lot of artillery fire and a lot of very close hand-to-hand combat in the long grass, in the woods around the Sunduru Hills and the Khartoum Government was not able to get through at that stage.

[White] Were people dying?

[Denslow] It seems so. Because the firing was so intense, I could not get right up to the front, but a commander told me that they were doing well and expected to find a lot of corpses next morning.

[White] Does it surprise you, having been in with both factions of the SPLA? Does it surprise you that already they are accusing each other of breaking the cease-fire?

[Denslow] Not at all. There is extraordinary bitterness on both sides. When I was around Nimule, casualties were coming—civilians who had been caught up an

attack by William Nyoun, one of former Garang commanders now across with the United side, and he has been operating out of Lafon which is one of his big bases down towards the area on [words indistinct] near Torit which is government-held. And he has been causing a lot of trouble for Garang's troops. Garang's troops, on the other hand, are blamed by the people of Lafon for attacks there back in January and February where again civilians were killed in large numbers. So, it is extreme bitterness on both sides.

[White] And it would, therefore, surprise you—won't it?—that a deal between them would stick at all. [sentence as heard]

[Denslow] Well, both sides official, they like a deal. The forces of the top say yes, of course, we [words indistinct] deal, we want to fight Khartoum, that is the main enemy. For Garang's side, that is certainly the concern. But among ordinary people, there have been so many incidents now there is extreme bitterness.

[White] Now, while you were in Sudan, you also went to see the northern leader, 'Umar al-Bashir. Did he strike you as being in any mood to compromise with any of the groups in the south?

[Denslow] Absolutely not. He is very angry at any idea of a deal between the two wings. As one would expect, he has always preferred them to be fighting each other and he certainly blames Western interferences as he sees it. I asked him about the referendum he had offered earlier in the year—a referendum in 10 years time for the south—and he said that he had been misinterpreted. It was never again to be a referendum over self-determination. It is only a referendum on what sort of a united Sudan it is supposed to be and he wants to give the federal system, the current 10 years before [words indistinct]. So, very much not in the mood of compromise.

[White] So, peace is not very near.

[Denslow] Not very near, but at the same time, there is an extraordinary exhaustion on all sides. In Khartoum, there have been riots over the shortage of fuel. People are very exhausted over the war and the numbers of deaths and the feelings have just been dragging on and on and on and many politicians from earlier regimes quietly say that there is going to be a solution even if it means independence for the south. Obviously, that is not the official line but among ordinary people one talks to, there is an enormous war weariness. [end recording]

Al-Bashir Comments on Government Reshuffle

EA0311221593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA)—President General 'Umar al-Bashir described the performance of the National Salvation Government as distinguished and ministers achieve their work with full capability and dedication, saying that the recent reshuffle was not a goal for failure [as received] but it came due to the surprising proposal of the attorney-general and approved by the ministers.

The statement came during General al-Bashir's meeting there Wednesday [3 November] with the media executives. He congratulated the information leaderships in their new posts and added that change in posts usually comes to renew confidence and upgraded performance. [passage omitted]

Gen. al-Bashir commended the efforts being exerted in the comprehensive d'awa (call) [agency parenthesis] programme in al-Damazin Province central state indicating that the province will witness the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the People's Defence Forces (PDF) [agency parenthesis] next month. He termed PDF as a "school for national and spiritual education and reserve for the armed forces".

On the other hand, the president spoke on the conference of the Preferential Trade Area organization of the east and southern Africa countries which will be convened in Kampala, Uganda, during 5-6 November, describing the organization as an "effective economic organization" and established on [a] proper basis Sudan effectively would contribute to the conference, he added.

Minister Affirms Liberalization To Continue

EA0311201593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Minister of Finance Abdullah Hasan Ahmad has confirmed that there can be no revocation of the policy of liberalizing the economy, pointing out that it is a policy that had been approved by the economic conference and the legislative organ in the country. His excellency clarified before the Transitional National Assembly today that the recent measures of the Bank of Sudan do not mean a retreat from the policy of liberalization. He explained that they fall in line with this policy. The finance minister said that more than 80 percent of the people's and producers' sectors benefited from the policies of economic liberalization.

Bank Governor To Enforce New Currency Measures

EA0311164993 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA)—As of Sunday 7 November the concerned and security authorities would be committed to application of the legal measures regarding the violations related to possession of foreign currency without the necessary documents, said the governor of the Bank of Sudan Dr. Sabir Muhammad al-Hasan.

In a press statement to SUNA, Dr. Hasan pointed out that possession of foreign currency following expiration of the three weeks ultimatum which ends next Saturday will be a crime punishable by law, which includes fine

confiscation of the foreign currency and imprisonment for a term ranging between 10 to 20 years.

Dr. Hasan has renewed the call upon citizens to sell to or deposit the foreign currency in their possession in banks, warning that the new monetary policy will be decisively executed.

Regulations To Take Effect 7 Nov

EA0311222493 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA)—The Bank of Sudan has instructed commercial banks not to permit the purchase of foreign currency, except as provided for under existing customs regulations. In addition, the Bank of Sudan has also instructed commercial banks not to permit the transfer of funds from abroad after 6 November. These instructions were contained in a circular which sets out methodology for foreign exchange transactions during the implementation of new policies in this area. The circular defined the valid period for documents issued by the banks for the purpose of withdrawing foreign currency or [word indistinct] purchase from the exchange window as three months, (?requiring) banks to retain documents for the opening of foreign exchange accounts. The circular authorized banks to export foreign currency or (?add currency) to their accounts abroad after obtaining authorization from the Bank of Sudan.

In the case of export contracts, the circular makes it incumbent upon the exporter to enter into a 6-month contract with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The circular also makes it incumbent upon everyone exporting goods to repatriate the value thereof in foreign currency within a period of 45 days from the date of dispatch. The circular calls for imports to be effected at bank exchange windows by way of those payments effected in the form of documents or letters of credit, with the provision that credit be opened at a minimum margin of 75 percent. The only exception is in the case of medicines or inputs used in the manufacture of medicines, in respect of which the credit margin will be 25 percent. Facilities have been provided for payment in respect of capital goods to extend to a minimum of six months to include wheat, flour, yeast, benzine, gasoline, butane gas, aviation fuel, medicines, and inputs for the manufacture thereof and [word indistinct] all these qualify for a six-month minimum period to facilitate their payment.

Syrian Official Expresses Support, Solidarity

EA0311203093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, has received a written message from Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, in which he confirmed Syria's sisterly stand with Sudan in complete solidarity on the road of Arab unity. The speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly explained that he studied the message sent by the Transitional National Assembly about Sudan's stand toward the unjust American escalation and America's accusation against Sudan of supporting terrorism.

Mr. Qaddurah added that he will brief the Syrian People's Assembly on Sudan's message and what was mentioned in it, namely Sudan's stand rejecting terrorism on the basis of the convictions of its people and their keenness in achieving peace and stability and their effort to consolidate relations of contact and cooperation with all the sisterly and friendly states that love peace within the framework of the international laws and charters.

Tunisia

1,933 Prisoners To Be Pardoned on Anniversary

LD0311175593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] On the sixth anniversary of 7 November [of Ben Ali's coming to power], the president of the republic has decided to pardon 1,933 prisoners; among them, 431 prisoners benefit from this pardon as part of the fourth session of the training program, initiated by the president since October 1991. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the minister of state and interior minister informed his excellency the president that 347 prisoners were granted conditional releases. The minister of justice also informed his excellency the president that the Pardon Commission had accepted 1,486 demands submitted by people to regain their rights.

GCC Committee Meets on Mining, Geology

LD0211135793 Riyadh SPA in English 1255 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 2, SPA— An experts committee and officials-in-charge of mineral resources departments in member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began proceedings of their third session here last night.

In an inaugural address, Ibrahim Ahmad Qabiri, the undersecretary of the ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, briefed the delegates on the Kingdom's experience in the field of mining and geological works.

The Kingdom is ready to provide everything in the light of its experience in this regard and contribute to establishment of a strong mining industry for the region's states, he said.

He called on the delegates to review the best ways of realizing integration among the GCC states and exchange data and expertise in this connection.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

For his part, Director of Petroleum and Gas Administration at the GCC General Secretariat Dr. Anwar 'Abdallah underscored the importance of coordination to exploit the mineral resources.

"Exchange of marketing data and technical expertise helps much in marketing the raw mineral materials in the GCC member states and the consuming countries," he said.

Dr. Anwar pointed out that the experts committee will discuss issues pertaining to mines' exploration, production, marketing, financing and industrialization as well as preparation of well-qualified national cadres.

Jalil 'Ali al-Samahiji, director of exploration and development at the Bahrain national oil company, said the meeting will give an idea of the progress made by Saudi Arabia in the mining industry.

He said the Gulf area, which accounts for 63 per cent of proven world oil reserves, is also rich in minerals like gold, bauxite, copper, nickle and iron.

Dr. Muhammad Asad Tawfiq [name as received], the Saudi assistant deputy minister for surveys and exploration said the meeting will discuss the investment environment in the mining sector as well as training, and the laws and regulations concerning mining.

According to Dr. Tawfiq, three gold mines—al-Ammar, al-Hajar and al-Hamde will become operational in about two to three years. Two gold mines are already operating in the Kingdom—Mahd al-Dahab and Sukhabrayat.

Meanwhile, press reports appearing today in the English press affirm that the mineral resources scene in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries is "very promising."

Saudi Arabia has done a lot of work in the field. The third session is part of GCC cooperation in minerals and mining.

The reports quoted an official as saying that Saudi Arabia is trying to develop a joint strategy to improve feasibility studies of available mines in GCC countries, increase marketing within and outside the GCC, evaluate the work done so far and make recommendations to the oil ministries of the GCC states.

He said the meeting, the third of its kind, will also discuss exploration, production, financing, capacity of each GCC state, and difficulties and problems facing the sector.

The delegates of the meeting felt that efforts made by the GCC states to shift their emphasis from oil production to the exploitation of other mineral resources in the last few years have started paying handsome dividends.

Salih al-Mahmudi [name as received], the UAE representative, also called for exchange of technical information in the field of mineral resources.

GCC Defense Ministers To Discuss 'Gulf Army'

LD0211193993 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim today affirmed that there is complete cooperation and coordination between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries in the military and security spheres for maintaining the security and stability of the region.

He said that the GCC defense ministers will discuss in their meeting due to convene in Abu Dhabi next Monday [8 November] numerous issues among which the most important are: The Gulf Army and the formation of a Gulf force numbering 100,000 soldiers, in addition to some special military issues.

The defense minister referred to the defense agreement between the State of Kuwait and Russia and said this agreement will be signed at the end of this month during the visit which he will be paying to Moscow.

*GCC's al-Qasimi on Defense Force

94P50023A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Shafiq al-Asadij]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary-general of the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has affirmed that the defense ministers in the GCC states will discuss in their next meeting, to be held in Abu Dhabi on 8-9 November, the issue of building a unified Gulf defense force.

He said that the ministers will discuss in a basic form the development of "Peninsula Shield forces" and the development of the GCC's defense system. He added that the ministers will discuss the recommendations that the chiefs of staff of the six GCC states prepared during their last meeting in Abu Dhabi. Gulf sources said that the ministers' discussions will center on the development of "Peninsula Shield forces" and that their strength will be increased from 15,000 to 45,000 men in order to become the nucleus for a unified Gulf force. They said that this proposal will be a study focus for the defense ministers, who will bring up a recommendation in this context to the 14th Gulf summit, to be held in Riyadh in December.

Al-Qasimi, who was speaking to a delegation of American businessmen visiting Abu Dhabi, said that the subject of the Arab boycott of Israel is an Arab subject." He said that the boycott should not be precipitously ended because there has still not been any progress achieved on the various routes of the peace process in the Middle East, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts. He emphasized the necessity of achieving noticeable progress on the ground with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Gaza and Jericho.

He said that, after the end of the cold war and the appearance of international changes in the political and economic fields, the GCC sees the beginning of a new age in which the spirit of cooperation will prevail over confrontation. He indicated that the furthering of the peace process in the Middle East and the signing of the preliminary agreement between the PLO and Israel are within this new spirit of cooperation, motivating the GCC states to welcome it as a first step toward a just, comprehensive, and permanent solution to the Middle East problem.

Kuwait

Amir Accepts Invitation To Visit Iran

PM0411104993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p2

[Report by Faris al-Salman: "Kuwaiti Amir Accepts Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Invitation To Visit Iran"]

[Text] Kuwait—Iranian Charge d'Affaires Abolqasem She'sha'i has announced that Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah has accepted Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's invitation to visit Iran.

She'sha'i, who the day before yesterday delivered a message to the amir containing the invitation to visit Tehran, said that the amir of Kuwait would take up the invitation at the earliest possible opportunity.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, She'sha'i said that the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry under secretary will visit Iran soon at Iran's official invitation to discuss the case of Kuwaiti fishermen who face detention for entering Iranian territorial waters.

He added: Kuwaiti citizens are welcome to fish anywhere but, because of the delicate situation, we prefer to discuss this matter in advance with Kuwaiti officials.

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin stated after his recent visit to Tehran that there is an intention by the Iranian and Kuwait coast guards to draw up a maritime protocol and that provisions of such a protocol were under study.

German Defense Official Holds News Conference

LD0311193193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1248 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait, 3 November 93, KUNA—Joerg Schoenbohn, the German secretary of state at the Defense Ministry, said today that Gulf security and stability were of the utmost importance to Europe. He emphasized the importance of forming a united military force for the GCC countries.

In a news conference, Schoenbohn added that his visit to Kuwait and talks with the Kuwaiti officials centered on German support for the international resolutions related to the war to liberate Kuwait, particularly to the demarcation of the borders and the return of the prisoners of war.

The talks also included the situation in Somalia; the role of the Kuwaiti peace force participating in the Restore Hope forces in Somalia; the Israeli-Palestinian agreement; and relations with Iraq and Iran.

Schoenbohn pointed out that his meeting with the heir apparent and prime minister focused on economic, military, and political cooperation and the means to consolidate it.

Schoenbohn referred to the fact that before the Iraqi aggression Kuwait bought a number of naval units from Germany and pointed out that a number of Kuwaiti Navy personnel were being trained in Germany to raise their fighting abilities. [passage omitted]

Schoenbohn emphasized the necessity of a GCC force that would include all military services. He praised the Omani proposal that called for forming a force consisting of 100,000 soldiers. [passage omitted]

Forum on Bank, Financial Institution Amalgation

LD0111133693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] A conference on amalgamation in the sector of banks and financial institutions opened at 0930 today at the headquarters of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development under the patronage of the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah. The conference is being organized by the

Kuwaiti economic society with the help of the Kuwaiti institution for scientific progress.

His royal highness the second deputy prime minister, finance minister, and planning minister, Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, deputized for the heir apparent and opened the conference with a speech on his behalf. In his address, al-Rawdan talked about the circumstances in which the conference was being held and said: We are facing the challenge of restructuring the Kuwaiti economy in general and improving the state of the banking system in particular. This system is at the heart of the economic body.

Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan added: The state has taken a number of important steps in this respect, for it bought off the debts of Kuwaiti companies and individuals from banks and financial institutions and freed the banks from a large volume of unserviceable debts and issued in their place guaranteed government bonds.

The second deputy prime minister, finance minister, and planning minister further said: Despite the high costs of this program, the expected benefit for the national economy will be good enough to justify these costs.

He added: There is a need to complete the required reform of the units of the banking system through a review of the infrastructure of the banks and the financial institutions to adapt them to the economic situation prevailing in the country and abroad.

He further said: After the amalgamations, the banks and financial institutions could face legal and administrative obstacles. These difficulties, however, should not constitute a hindrance to continued efforts to restructure the banking system on technical foundations and economic criteria which would lead to higher efficiency and better performance. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Government in 'Secret Talks' With Shiites

PM0311165893 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 1 Nov 93 p4

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "The Story of the Secret Negotiations Between the Saudi Government and the Shiite Opposition"]

[Text] London—The Saudi Shiite opposition delegation headed by Tawfiq al-Shaykh has concluded a visit to Riyadh lasting about 20 days. During the visit the delegation met with a number of Saudi officials, headed by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Interior Minister Prince Nayif, and Eastern Region Governor Prince Muhammad Bin-Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in an attempt to improve relations between the Shiite citizens living mainly in the east of the Saudi Kingdom and the government. These relations have been very tense for half a century.

Despite the strict secrecy in which the results of the visit have been shrouded, it is believed that the two sides achieved a solution of sorts. Because of the scarcity of information on this matter, there have been increasing rumors, claims, and speculations over the past three months, while the Shiite opposition representatives in London refuse to discuss the issue. The solution is said to include giving some 3,000 people their passports back and repatriating some.

Some people believe that a coup has indeed occurred in the relations between the opposition and the government. Members of the opposition whom you could in the past find in any place or circle have almost disappeared, as if out of eagerness not to appear on public occasions or give interviews to the press. There is no indication that AL-JAZIRAH AL-'ARABIYAH magazine, which stopped publication temporarily for two months some time ago and said then that it would reappear later, intends to reappear. If you try to contact the magazine's office to enquire, there will be no one at the other end to reply, except a fax machine.

AL-JAZIRAH AL-'ARABIYAH's Chief Editor Hamzah al-Hasan has refused to discuss the issue of negotiations with the government or answer charges made against the Shiite opposition. In a telephone conversation with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, all he said was that the negotiations were an existing reality and that "they have not only just started. They began seven years ago. That is no secret. We want a solution. We are not opposition mongers." He also confirmed that a delegation was in Riyadh, but he did not give names or state the purpose or background of the visit.

Arab sources have confirmed to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that there have been several attempts to reconcile the Shiite opposition and the government with the contribution of Palestinian, Lebanese, and other Arab politicians in addition to the direct contacts between the parties concerned, which have been going on for years. According to unconfirmed reports, meetings held between representatives of Saudi Chief of Intelligence Prince Turki al-Faysal and the opposition leaders in London produced no results but paved the way for more meetings and caused psychological normalization between the two sides.

An Arab journalist with close links with Saudi officials has stated that he heard of two previous meetings. The first was in the days of former Saudi Ambassador in London Shaykh Nasir al-Manqur and was held with a high-ranking National Guard official. The other was held in Damascus with the Saudi ambassador there. The latest was the most important because it was held at the initiative of King Fahd himself, believed to have been made through Ambassador Ghazi al-Qusaybi, who had met with Shiite opposition members on public occasions at the Saudi Embassy. That initiative created bewilderment, speculation, and excitement in London's political and press circles. Contrary to what has been said about Saudi Arabia and its rulers and even contrary to the impression one forms from

what the Shiite oppostion itself says, the initiative by the state's highest official in the interests of understanding and dialogue with the opposition and his receiving some members of the opposition are things unheard of before in the Arab world, and that applies to all Arab leaders. It is an advanced civilized step unprecedented in the history of the Kingdom, says a source close to the Saudi Government.

Some people maintain that the initiative was made out of weakness, while others say that it was not in fact a departure from Saudi traditions and government traditions in Saudi Arabia, which has known the whole range from severe repression to tolerance. But whatever the motives, the fact that the king received members of the opposition has created a positive impression hitherto unknown in relation to King Fahd and the Kingdom, reflecting the current new phase of tolerance.

Many people were surprised when they heard about the opposition's meetings with the Saudi Government and when they learned that AL-JAZIRAH AL-'ARABIYAH, that solid magazine with free liberal leanings, and its English equivalent ARABIA MONITOR, which is published in the United States, would stop publication.

What is all this in return for? Some people believe that the Shiite opposition, which had presented to the world a nationalist image advocating respect for the Saudi people's basic political and human rights, wants, at the most, what can be called a separate deal for Shiite society in eastern Saudi Arabia. The king has released about 40 Shiite detainees and, in doing so, angered the Sunni opposition in central Saudi Arabia. It has been claimed that the rest of the demands made by the Shiite opposition are not political or not directly linked to politics. They include respect for the special characteristics of the Shiite sect, an end to their treatment as third class citizens, and abolition of decisions banning their employment.

If that proves to be the case and if these are all the Shiite opposition's demands, then the king might have made a great achievement at a low cost.

Some Arab intellectuals, especially some Georgetown and Harvard university professors, surprised by the WASHINGTON POST's 16 October article on the negotiations between the Shiite opposition and the government, highly praised the skill of both the government and the opposition. Most of them believe that the opposition would not have been able to achieve more and, therefore, accepted the minimum, and that its assessment of the circumstances was accurate. It did not take a leap in the dark, and perhaps might have taken risks with the reputation and lives of its leaders who went to their country.

The government, on the other hand, gave the opposition members the label of representatives of the Shiite grouping in the Kingdom, thus demonstrating flexibility, which might enable it to control the Shiite situation described by Western political circles as explosive in critical political and economic circumstances in the country. Observers believe that this new approach of dealing with local forces and eliminating sources of resentment will restore the royal family's control of events. That was coupled with the appointment of the Shura Council members and regional councils members, creating a relaxed atmosphere to prevent falling into the trap of violence.

A source close to the Shiite opposition says that "despite the disappointment of some Arab opposition members and the extreme enthusiasm of some others and regardless of the divergent views, the negotiation issue remains an internal Saudi affair. Any rapprochement between any Arab government and its citizens who disagree with it should, at least initially, be supported.

"It remains a fact that the internal attitude is more important than all external positions. It is clear that the Sunni opposition in central Saudi Arabia will not be pleased with any progress in relations between the Shiites and the government, primarily, perhaps, for sectarian reasons, and also out of fear that the regime might single it out and move against it in the future although, according to Liberty Organization, which is close to the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, a considerable number of detainees were recently released, leaving only a few center opposition members, not exceeding 50, in prison."

Some Saudis have been quoted as saying that the meeting between the government and the Shiite opposition has been generally welcomed in popular circles and by local Shiite men of religion. Carrol Murphy of the WASHINGTON POST has reported that al-Shaykh met and spoke openly with some of them to enlist their support for the reconciliation. A source close to the opposition in London has stated that the aim is not to conclude a secret agreement but "to lay the basis for reconciliation between the Shiite grouping and the government." This required talks with influential figures on the subject, to secure their support. The source admitted that a small opposition minority in the country and abroad is opposed to reconciliation with the government, and it bases its argument on three points: That agreement might undermine relations between the Shiite citizens and the rest of the population if the regime continued its battle against other national parties; that the targets have been reduced to less than the acceptable minimum; and that there are insufficient security guarantees for the opposition, or what used to be the opposition.

The source added that there were vast and lengthy discussions by opposition expatriates in London, Washington, Damascus, and Beirut and by Shiite leaders in the Kingdom itself, with the majority concluding that reconciliation with the regime was in the interest of the Kingdom, its people, the government, and the Shiites, and that the king's initiative was extremely positive, opening the way to a new life.

Kinkel Discusses Peace Process, Other Issues

AU0311150993 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 3 Nov 93 p 2

["K.F."-signed report: "Saudi Arabia Will Support the Peace Process in the Middle East More Strongly"]

[Text] Jeddah, 2 November—Saudi Arabia wants to support the peace process in the Middle East to the best of its ability, and it might increase its aid for the Palestinians. Foreign Minister Kinkel got this impression during talks with members of the Saudi Arabian Government in the port town of Jeddah. So far, Riyadh has promised aid worth $100 million for 1994. According to the Israel-PLO agreement on partial autonomy in the occupied territories, agreements between Israel and Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon are now urgently required. "The region and Saudi Arabia are longing for peace," Kinkel quoted Saudi Arabian Government members as saying.

Kinkel discussed a large range of Middle East issues and regional conflicts, including Iran's political isolationism and Somalia's uncertain future, with the foreign minister, the minister for petroleum, and King Fahd. He explored the German-Saudi relationship regarding cooperation on larger projects and discovered numerous similar views. Thus, with a view to the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the members of the Saudi Government again advocated lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia, which was earlier demanded by Bonn and Washington, but which was rejected by the European Community. King Fahd expressed particular concern about the situation of the Muslims, but failed to make it clear what role the Saudis might be willing to assume in alleviating the misery of the Muslim brothers. Kinkel referred to Germany's humanitarian contribution and repeated his country's position: A Geneva peace agreement—which now seems unachievable and largely meaningless in view of the developments in the theater in the Balkans—must not be concluded at the expense of the weakest, the Muslims. In Somalia, where both countries dispatched troop contingents, a new chaos should be prevented. There was agreement that a "possible reduction and a possible withdrawal" of troops of both countries from Somalia should only take place in coordination with the United Nations and the other partners. Saudi Arabia promised support for Germany's wish for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. The German foreign minister, who visited the Kingdom during his third visit to the Middle East, will meet with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman at the end of his visit on Wednesday [3 November]. Kinkel praised Riyadh's foreign policy, which is characterized by moderation. He encouraged the Saudis to adopt a more active role in the Muslim successor states to the Soviet Union.

Both sides used Kinkel's visit to attract investments by the other partner. The German minister tried to win Saudi investments in the new laender, and the Saudis primarily advocated new joint ventures. Kinkel reported that he tried to promote the interests of the European aircraft producer Airbus and Fokker, and that he received Riyadh's—unbinding—promise that it will examine new aircraft purchases in a "calm and fair" way. Yet he added: "We are facing considerable competition here." He was referring to attempts by the Clinton administration to persuade the Saudi Government to buy primarily U.S. passenger aircraft in the future. The Saudi defense minister, Prince Sultan, the king's brother, suggested closer cooperation reagrding military equipment among the two countries and expressed the general wish for German defense technology.

King Fahd received the German foreign minister on Monday evening [1 November], a few hours after the latter's arrival, and not on Tuesday afternoon, as originally planned, for a lengthy talk. The German side viewed this, as well as the atmosphere and the way the meetings went, as a remarkable gesture toward Germany. At the royal palace on the Red Sea, the monarch discussed both the region's prospects after the Israel-PLO agreement on partial autonomy for Gaza and Jericho and the remaining conflicts in the Middle East. King Fahd was confident that peace in the region is possible, but he failed to mention the PLO or its Chairman 'Arafat. The anger of the Saudis about the PLO's support for Saddam Husayn after the Iraqi invasion in Kuwait has apparently not yet vanished. King Fahd stressed that agreements between Israel and Syria, which still has reservations about the peace agreement and which allows groups of radical Palestinians to operate on its territory who have vowed death to the PLO leadership, is urgently required. Kinkel explained the planned European aid for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Fahd expounded, in detail, Saudi Arabia's concerns regarding Iran, because of its Shi'ite fundamentalism and its military rearmament. Not only after its defeat in the war against Iraq has Tehran been accused of hegemonic efforts in the Gulf region. Iran wanted to complete two nuclear power plants with the intention of producing weapons-grade plutonium. Kinkel, who explained Germany's policy vis-a-vis Iran—his Saudi hosts did not mention the contacts between the German and Iranian secret services—emphasized that no German companies are involved in any nuclear project in Iran and that they are not completing the nuclear power plant in Bushehr whose construction was started under the shah, as claimed by U.S. papers. He added that the inspectors of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) did not detect anything in Iran that might suggest military nuclear plans. He expressed the hope that the "relatively" intensive relations between Germany and Iran might contribute to improving Iran's relations with its Arab neighbors. He mentioned his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati in New York. On that occasion, Kinkel tried to win Iran's support for the Middle East process.

In addition, Saudi Arabia is still concerned by the situation and the developments in its northern neighboring country Iraq. The report by IAEA Director Blix,

who told the UN General Assembly, after an inspection tour, that the components of the Iraqi nuclear weapons program have either been destroyed of "neutralized," did not really allay Saudi fears. It is not yet clear how Baghdad obtained elements for the development of its nuclear program. According to Saudi officials, "Saddam Husayn must prove through positive deeds that he wants to return to the community of peoples."

United Arab Emirates

Paper Argues For Maintaining Boycott on Israel

JN0111101993 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The Cart Before the Horse"]

[Text] One of the basic facts of the Middle East conflict is that it is not merely a Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a Syrian-Israeli conflict, or a Lebanese-Israeli dispute, but rather an Arab-Israeli conflict on various fronts.

True, the achievement of a settlement on one of these fronts could somewhat help resolve the dispute on the other fronts. However, reaching a settlement on a single front should not mean that the overall issue has been settled, or that the tension it creates has diminished. For, the conflict will continue and remain as tense and volatile as it has always been as long as the root causes of this conflict are not addressed.

In other words, a successful implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is not, by itself, enough for the Arab League's 22 member states to conclude that they have forged durable peace with the Israelis, or to believe that the root causes of the conflict have been removed, or are about to be removed, because the Israelis have continued to occupy the Syrian Golan Heights as well as the border strip in southern Lebanon. Moreover, the Gaza-Jericho accord does definitely address the future of the West Bank territories. Worse still, the situation regarding Jerusalem is unclear, to say the least. Indeed, the situation regarding Jerusalem does not give rise to optimism.

Meanwhile, the expansionist Israeli policy, which is based on nuclear blackmail, is not fostering trust, which is a basic condition for the establishment of a viable and durable peace.

Given all this, how can the Arabs be asked to end their economic boycott of Israel, which is the last collective weapon at their disposal to express Arab resistance to Israeli occupation.

Although the Arab boycott regime might have practically failed to achieve its desired purposes, it remains a manifestation of Arab solidarity against occupation. Given its ineffectiveness, why then is this push to end it?

The cart cannot move if it is placed before the horse. We want this to be understood by all those who are seeking to achieve peace.

Yemen

House of Representatives Urges 'Stability'

JN0311145993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, the House of Representatives continued to debate developments in the crisis plaguing the country, in a session chaired by brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives.

Overall, debate by the people's deputies focused on the need for serious and constant efforts to resolve the political crisis plaguing the country, avoiding the crisis' negative social effects and repercussions. Debate by the people's deputies also underscored the fact that taboos exist, and that in no way should these be violated, sidestepped, or circumvented. These are: The Islamic shari'ah, Yemeni unity, the Constitution, democracy, political pluralism, freedom, equality, and justice.

The deputies affirmed the need to combat erroneous practices, expose all irresponsible acts, shun the differences caused by selfish interests, and [words indistinct] the influential political and national forces operating in the Yemeni arena. Remarks by the deputies affirmed the need to cut back on press statements and media vituperations through the (?verification) of the [words indistinct] that reflect negatively on the life of the community, and on the security and economic situation in the Republic of Yemen.

The deputies urged all parties, political organizations, and mass agencies to cooperate to end the crisis, foster trust among all sons of the homeland, and end political vituperations to ensure the stability of the homeland and to create a secure and prosperous future for the people.

The House will continue its work tomorrow, Thursday, morning, God willing.

Demonstrations in Ta'izz Seen as Part of Crisis

PM0111155093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hamud Munsir: "Ta'izz Demonstrations Threaten Repetition of December Incidents"]

[Text] Sanaa—Tension continued on the streets of Ta'izz yesterday. Some traders and money changers closed their shops in anticipation of a renewal of the demonstrations staged by university students the evening of the day before yesterday, when some secondary school students and citizens headed for the governor's office, where police forces dispersed them with hot water cannons.

Eyewitnesses say that security forces remained deployed at the gates of university colleges and secondary schools and at the main intersections. They included military units and armored vehicles armed with machine guns.

There were reports three days ago in Sanaa about arrangements to stage demonstrations in Ta'izz, but official quarters denied this indirectly and took tough measures as of the beginning of this week at the approaches to the city, setting up checkpoints in a manner attracting attention.

Sources confirm that traders and money changers fear a renewal of demonstrations and subversive actions similar to the unrest incidents which began in Ta'izz 9 December last year and then extended to scores of Yemeni cities over the following two days, leading to confrontations between demonstrators and security, as a result of which scores of people were killed or wounded and over 700 arrested. A number of government institutions and buildings and stores were also badly damaged.

The causes of the tension and demonstrations in Ta'izz are still the same causes that led to the unrest at the end of last year. The deterioration in living conditions, high prices, and the sinking value of the Yemeni riyal against foreign currencies—it is now 60 riyal to a dollar—are still there. As a result, many citizens are unable to get what they need from the imported basic commodities.

Some opposition sources pointed out that the Ta'izz incidents and the present tension may be part of the crisis between the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the General People's Congress, which led to the seclusion of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the YSP, in his house in Aden and his refusal—until now—to return to Sanaa to be sworn in and to assume the duties of his post for a new term.

Politicians in Sanaa say that preparations are being made for a huge popular demonstration to be staged in Aden within the coming few days in support of al-Bid. The sources added that these preparations are in response to the popular receptions held in Sanaa in recent days for delegations from some Yemeni governorates, which were attended by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zanadani, representative of the Yemeni Reform Grouping in the Presidential Council. They were not attended by 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP representatives in the council.

The most recent of these delegations, which included ulema and tribal chiefs, was a delegation from the northern governorate of Sa'dah. Observers interpret these popular demonstrations designed to congratulate the president—in the absence of his deputy and partner in the achievement of Yemeni unity—as an attempt to reinforce 'Ali Salih's position vis-a-vis al-Bid during the current crisis.

Tribal Chiefs 'Will Not Keep Silent' on Crisis

PM0411155593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Hamud Munsir and Lutfi Shatarah report: "Yemeni Tribes Warn of Intervention; al-'Attas and Nu'man Meet With al-Bid"]

[Text] Sanaa, Aden—Yemeni Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Dr. Yasin Nu'man, chairman of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Secretariat, (both are members of the party's Political Bureau) went to Aden at midday yesterday.

Sources say that their mission—which has not been announced—is to hold a meeting with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the YSP, who has been refusing to return to Sanaa since 19 August.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum—a senior chief of the Bakil tribes and leader of the Yemeni Popular Forces Union, has warned in Aden that "the tribes and the chiefs will not keep silent if they feel that the homeland is in danger, despite the differences between their capabilities and those of the parties to the political crisis inside the ruling coalition." He was referring to the General People's Congress [GPC] and the YSP. He added that "the tribes are relying on their sincerity and belief and on the people, as Yemen belongs to all its people, not an individual or a group of individuals."

A source from the leadership of the ruling coalition has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the crisis between the GPC and the YSP is still heading toward further escalation and tension, especially after the attempt at dawn last Friday on the lives of al-Bid's sons—which claimed the life of Kamil al-Hamid, al-Bid's nephew—has destroyed any signs of a breakthrough and deepened the trust crisis among the ruling coalition parties.

Some difficulties emerged in the meeting of the coalition parties' tripartite committee held the day before yesterday evening, because of its inability to resolve a number of disputed issues or to agree a timetable for tackling them. The most important difficulties are:

—The GPC's refusal to remove Armed Forces camps from the major cities;
—The GPC's objection to the principle of the resignation of the president of the republic, his deputy, and speaker of the House of Representatives from their parties while assuming responsibilities in the state;
—The Yemeni Reform Grouping's refusal to make any reference to the constitutional reforms plan in the proposed agreement among the three coalition parties;
—The GPC's objection to the YSP's proposal to hold local council elections next April and its insistence on deferring these elections until later.

Al-'Attas' and Nu'man's departure for Aden coincided with rumors in Sanaa about the deployment of tribal gunmen in a number of camps in the capital. But an

authoritative YSP source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has categorically denied these rumors and stressed they are baseless.

In another development, the police yesterday morning arrested a blind man in the Interior Ministry premises in al-Hasbah area (north of Sanaa); he was in possession of two hand grenades. A security source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the man—whose name has not been revealed—was in the information room to ask for permission to enter the complaints room, where Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil receives any citizens wishing to see him regarding their complaints.

The source added that the two hand grenades were discovered after searching the man, so security at the ministry held him there. He said during his interrogation that he had been "carrying the two grenades for self-defense because of problems between him and others."

The source pointed out that the man will be referred to the political security organ to complete the investigation with him and to determine why he was carrying this kind of weapon and why he took them with him to the Interior Ministry offices without an official license.

Al-Bid Calls For Consolidation of Unity

PM0211151293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Oct 93 p 14

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by unidentified correspondent in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] To begin with, how should I address you now: deputy chairman of the Presidential Council or secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]?

[Al-Bid] First of all, I am not exercising the Presidential Council's powers, because I have not been sworn in yet. Thus I prefer not to claim the official title until I see that we are in a position enabling us to carry out our duties.

[AL-HAYAH] With whom should we say the interview is?

[Al-Bid] Never mind. You journalists can sort it out. I believe we are known as figures and as a party participating in power and in the present coalition. In fact, the coalition idea was the party's. It advocated unity and democracy and is now suffering from their burdens, and maybe sometimes we offer things on behalf of others—which is nothing to be ashamed of; in fact we are very proud of it. You can choose whichever title you like.

[AL-HAYAH] Vice president... deputy chairman of the Presidential Council... is that a good title?

[Al-Bid] I told you about that. We will wait until we see there is a possibility of us actually rising to the level of that responsibility... and then it would be an honor to me to hold this or another title. We are proud of people's trust, which is burdening us at present.

[AL-HAYAH] What does taking the oath actually mean to you?

[Al-Bid] It means the ability to do something toward implementing the issues that have been raised, namely those concerning people and national building, issues of the Yemeni people and national building, unity issues. Without reactivating these issues we see no hope of moving forward.

[AL-HAYAH] So there is a threat to unity?

[Al-Bid] Yes. If we do not establish the united state and grant it its national and democratic concept, we are exposing unity to danger. I always fear "embracing while we differ."

[AL-HAYAH] What would you prefer?

[Al-Bid] I prefer to be clear and open with one another and sincere with ourselves and our people and propose what we can do. We have a proverb which says: Live within your means. Let us see what we can do sincerely. Let us abandon political demagoguery and stop turning dialogue into trickery, hypocrisy, and deception. Let us be truthful. What we cannot do today we should not do. Let us say that we are going to do it when conditions are favorable or later, God willing. Let us have the will and the determination. This is the problem which has led us to the situation we are in. The problem is that we say a lot of things, but we do not know which of us is sincere and which is not. In the end we have offered nothing toward implementing our agreements and pledges, whether written agreements or "gentlemen's agreements."

[AL-HAYAH] What is your final position on the question of returning to Sanaa?

[Al-Bid] You were with me here last year. I stayed here from 1 August to 4 November—three months and two days. I saw what I am seeing today. But it was difficult for me to sit here when the time for the elections arrived and the transitional phase ended. So I went to participate with the others and with the national accord, which set 27 April as a date for the elections. Praise be to God, the elections were held despite all the difficulties, but the issues are still there. All we are doing is reannouncing and rescheduling them and talking about them in a boring manner. We hear from our partners (in the coalition) "OK, yes, everything is available, anything you want." We have a responsibility and cannot abandon our responsibility. So I cannot say I am not responsible. I was between the [General People's] Congress and the YSP in the transitional phase and exerted efforts together with them, and I cannot say I am not responsible. Even when we speak with people, we tend to arrive at the language of opposition because of the real suffering, because you are in power and yet can do nothing. I am in power now. I do not want power as a decoration: Either we do something or we step down. I

say: If anyone can do something, let him go ahead and do it. But I say what happened cannot lead the united state to safety and maybe cannot return us to the two-part [Yemen] situation if matters proceed in this manner, because the situation is difficult. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Did you believe you were under threat in Sanaa?

[Al-Bid] Brother, my security is part of the Yemeni people's security. There is no security in the united state—the security required for it, the security it deserves. I used to enjoy in that part of Yemen both security and a state, whatever this state was. Even the scarce things we used to share. We asked for nothing except order, security, and state traditions, some work consistent with what we agreed upon, namely the democratic orientation, the establishment of a state of institutions and law, and some social justice. No one proposed socialism, because social justice preceded it in history. But, brother, we have seen nothing. We exchanged courtesy and spoke a lot while something else is generating in life. I sincerely say it is confusing.

[AL-HAYAH] And what can be done now?

[Al-Bid] Let us move to the people's issues. We do not want to add to the 18 points we proposed [to the coalition]. Let us address some of them and embark on practical steps. I cannot accept any talk or even a signature on paper in which I have no hope.

[AL-HAYAH] What is required in practice?

[Al-Bid] Measures. Let them first take their hands off the state so that it will be a state for us all with a mechanism which we ourselves form. Let us take measures that prove goodwill by arresting those who violate the law like criminals and terrorists and those who are wreaking havoc in the country, and they are known.

[AL-HAYAH] Would that cause you to take the constitutional oath?

[Al-Bid] No. Only if I see there is a possibility of a timetable, practical measures, and willingness to change the mentality. Brother, I am a soldier in Yemen and know the way to Sanaa. I do not need anyone "to guide me to it." I told the House of Representatives I am abstaining for reasons you know. If they do not know them, I am prepared to send another message to the deputies. I have no personal demands. If I believe I cannot do something in these issues, then I cannot shoulder the responsibility. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] What is the truth about what is happening in Aden? There is much talk in Sanaa about separatist measures being taken in Aden. It is said in Sanaa that orders have been issued here not to supply the northern units stationed in the south with training equipment. Is that true? And is it true that military police elements were stopped at the al-'Anad point and prevented from returning to their positions in the south? This is in addition to removing President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's portraits and making preparations to conduct an official reception for Sultan Qabus in Aden, as though he was coming from another state.

[Al-Bid] Even Mahmud Darwish [poet], who came to sing the praises of Aden, might be called partitionist. And President Francois Mitterrand might be called partitionist because he did not visit Aden. I hope you will see these things from the viewpoint of the people, not officials. It is not honorable for us, the people who achieved unity, to have any other position. Even with regard to what concerns us as individuals, we are not the type of people to make mistakes and yet remain in their positions. The YSP is not like that. Anyone who makes mistakes must shoulder the responsibility for his mistake.

I do not want to talk about the situation you referred to or about other minor issues. But I want to say one thing: Our depots are not the same, and I have indeed stopped the distribution of arms from Jabal Hadid (Aden). Why the arms? Is there a battle on the border and we have no problem? [sentence as published] I stopped that the day before yesterday (Tuesday), because we believe that the situation is not right, if there is distribution of arms, especially some of the arms which are known to be not for training. I stopped that myself. I believe that this position helps to calm the situation. I am amazed at those who give those orders. We have these arms and release them when we feel there is a threat to national sovereignty. But doing that now would threaten national sovereignty from within by kindling the situation.

[AL-HAYAH] In what capacity did you stop that?

[Al-Bid] Me? I stopped it through the (decisionmaking) quarters. But I was behind this issue and I am responsible for it. I mean quarters which are in administrative decisionmaking, and they exist in the YSP. I stop when I see that there is someone moving the situation toward calming the atmosphere. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] If you were to send a message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, what would you say to him?

[Al-Bid] I do not need to send messages, because I spoke to him frankly in the past, both privately and in the presence of others who shared the responsibility with us, whether in the party or the congress. He is responsible, and each of uses his conscience in his responsibility, and I wish him success. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Receives French Delegation in Aden

JN0211194593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpt] In Aden today, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the Presidential Council vice chairman, received a joint French delegation, made up of a team from the Society for the Advancement of Arab-French Relations, headed by Society president Ahmad Shakir, and a team from the Rally for the Republic, headed by (Richard Kaznaf), a

member of the French National Assembly and commissioner general of the Rally's foreign relations. The delegation also includes a number of French businessmen.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the Presidential Council vice chairman, welcomed the French delegation and wished them a good stay in our country. He voiced satisfaction with the growth of French-Yemeni relations in all fields. He stressed that our country is interested in improving these relations and widening their scope to serve the common interests of the French and Yemeni peoples.

He also reviewed current political developments in the national arena. In that regard, he noted the various reactions to the issues that concern the homeland. [passage omitted]

President Receives Delegation

JN0211193893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, today received a joint French delegation. The delegation is made up of a team from the Society for the Advancement of Arab-French Relations, headed by Society president Ahmad Shakir, and a team from the Rally for the Republic, headed by (Richard Kaznaf), a member of the French National Assembly and commissioner general of the Rally's foreign relations. The delegation also includes a number of French businessmen.

The meeting focused on relations and fields of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The delegation members expressed their admiration of the steps achieved by our country in the direction of unity and democracy. They also voiced satisfaction with the positive and encouraging investment climate in our country, and the level of French-Yemeni cooperation in all fields.

Mr. (Kaznaf) conveyed to the Presidential Council chairman a message from Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris and president of the Rally for the Republic. The message touches on various aspects of relations between Yemen and France.

During the meeting, the brother president praised French-Yemeni relations and France's support for Yemeni unity and the democratic march in our country. He noted that there are many fields for cooperation and the exchange of benefits.

The meeting was attended by (Marcel Eugene), the French ambassador to our country.

UK Reporters Freed, Await Permission To Leave

PM0311111793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Yemen Releases British Journalists on Condition They Keep Silent About 'Detention Ordeal'"]

[Text] Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—British journalists Raymond Shilitu [name as transliterated] and 'Abdallah Hasan Muhammad are currently under house arrest in a Sanaa hotel pending approval from the Yemeni authorities for them to leave the country. The authorities released them from prison last Wednesday under a guarantee from the British Embassy.

Yemeni police arrested Shilitu and Muhammad three weeks ago after discovering—by watching them for several days and listening to their telephone conversations—that they were shooting a television film about forged passports and illegal acquisition of entry visas to Britain and a number of other states using secret cameras and recording equipment.

It is worth mentioning that the two journalists work for the British company "Clarke Television Production." They arrived in Sanaa on 29 September with a "tourist" visa in the hope of producing a documentary program about forged passports and visas for Channel 4 of British television.

But Yemeni police arrested them on 4 October in the hotel in which they were staying in a Sanaa district. They were held for interrogation until the British Embassy managed to persuade the Yemeni police to release them after giving a guarantee.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the authorities made the journalists' release conditional on their not talking to media representatives about their ordeal during the weeks of detention until they leave the country. The two journalists and British Embassy sources undertook to do so, despite their belief that what happened to them "was unfair and in violation of the simplest principles of freedom of the press, which the Yemeni Government says are a reality that have been experienced there over recent years."

The accusations leveled against the two journalists are as follows: They carried out actions hostile to the Yemeni people, entered the country with forged passports, and did not get permission from the government before filming the program.

Interrogation of Shilitu and Muhammad during the detention period was not conducted all at once, but in

sessions at infrequent intervals. They were attended by a representative from the British Embassy to listen to the interrogations.

Both journalists told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about "the maltreatment, bad conditions, and malnutrition" from which they suffered, compared with conditions in Britain and other states.

Continued efforts exerted by the British Embassy in Sanaa and Channel 4 in London resulted in a decision being issued by Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah to allow them to leave the country, provided they sign a written apology for their secret filming and undertake not to do it again.

Yemeni authorities also promised to return to them the equipment they confiscated during their arrest, especially as one of these machines costs some $70,000.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned that with regard to the selling of visas, "the fingers of suspicion are pointed at some employees at the British Embassy, especially as the visas granted are not forged and are accepted by British immigration authorities at the points of entry—which proves that they are sound and were granted legally." AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources added that "the British Embassy wishes to eliminate the suspicions about it and about its employees, even if it comes to saying the visas were stolen and it knew nothing about them."

Baghdad Protests Kuwaiti Border Shooting Incident

JN0311195393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1907 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has reported that at approximately 1330 [1030 GMT] yesterday, Tuesday, on 2 November 1993, two vehicles transporting Kuwaiti civilians dressed in traditional Arab garb were seen moving about near the housing complex affiliated with the Arabian Gulf base of Umm Qasr. When they reached a military control post affiliated with the base, a control soldier moved forward, and asked the advancing persons to identify themselves. Meanwhile, a vehicle affiliated with UN observers arrived in the area. A Kuwaiti civilian disembarked from the vehicle. He was carrying a revolver in his hand. He fired on the control soldiers without advance warning. He wounded two of them, and missed the third. This morning, martyr Ribh 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Wahid died of the wounds he sustained in the incident.

This cowardly aggression took place under the very nose of the UN team, which failed to deter the aggressors. Moreover, the UN team allowed the culprit to escape, using a UN vehicle.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs lodged a protest over this incident to the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, requesting that those responsible for it be interrogated.

Ramadan Confers With Visiting PFLP Official

JN0311171393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has received a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by PFLP Deputy Secretary General Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri].

Ramadan affirmed that pan-Arab causes constitute an indivisible whole, and that the struggle to uphold them is the responsibility of strugglers who cherish their nation's objectives and have faith in its destiny. He indicated that the components of strength within our Arab nation outweigh all instances of treason and agentry, as well as all conspiracies and acts of aggression.

The vice president noted that the Arabs' firm will and their adherence to constants and principles are indisputable, as manifested in the Iraqis' heroic stand under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

Ramadan pointed out that the Iraqis' continuation with the march of development, construction, and renaissance reflects their vitality, as well as their determination to defy all forms of conspiracy and aggression and to emerge victorious from all this.

For his part, the PFLP deputy secretary general relayed the greetings of the PFLP secretary general and those of the PFLP Political Bureau members to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. Abu-'Ali Mustafa also relayed to Ramadan their appreciation of the courageous posture of Iraq, which constitutes a strong wall in the face of the schemes and aggressions targeting Iraq and the Arab nation.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with the situation on the Palestinian scene as well as the grim conspiracies and attacks targeting the Arab nation. Vice President Ramadan and the PFLP official affirmed that the Arab masses' adherence to their objectives and principles, the escalation of struggle, and the unification of moves among all Arab popular forces, parties, organizations, and unions could thwart all chapters of treason, conspiracy, and aggression targeting the Arab nation in Palestine, Iraq, and elsewhere in the Arab homeland.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh and Jamil Majdalani, members of the PFLP Political Bureau, and the head of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau of the Revolution Command Council.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Mauritanian Delegation

JN0311205193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening received a delegation of the Mauritanian Labor and National Unity Party headed by (Ali Bouhat Ould Ibrahim), secretary general of the party.

During the meeting, they discussed the ties of bilateral cooperation between the two parties and the means of promoting them in the interest of the two fraternal countries and peoples as well as their national and pan-Arab ambitions and aspirations.

Comrade Tariq 'Aziz commended Mauritania's support for Iraq during its its confrontation of aggressors. He added: This support was only natural. It was expected. It reflected the nobility and principled course of the fraternal Mauritanian Arab people. We are optimistic about the future of both Iraq and the Arab nation. He affirmed that the current difficulties are temporary, and are bound to vanish.

For his part, (Ould Ibrahim) stated that the Mauritanian people as well as all Mauritanian political forces and parties support the Iraqi people in their confrontation of aggressors, and in their struggle to end the unfair embargo imposed by the unjust parties.

The meeting was attended by the comrade director of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Al-Sahhaf Explains Foreign Policy to Expatriates

JN0311212293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received the delegations taking part in the first Iraqi expatriates conference on health and medicine.

During the meeting, the foreign minister reviewed Iraqi foreign policy and its role in enlightening world public in terms of exposing the evil purposes and intentions of Western governments, which are aimed at undermining Iraq's unity and sovereignty.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf affirmed that Iraq will remain an effective member of international organizations, and that it will continue to act in line with the UN Charter. He indicated that Arab [as heard] policies entertained the notion that the political game they initiated against Iraq will be easy to play. However, the Iraqi people under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn have proven them wrong, as attested to by many political and technical figures affiliated with the United Nations who were assigned the task of following up on some issues with Iraq, he noted.

The minister touched on the relationship between Iraq and Iran, indicating that the Iraqi Government constantly seeks to end differences with its neighbors and resolve problems peacefully.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf answered the questions and queries posed by Iraqi expatriates on several political issues. The clarifications provided by the foreign minister were well received by the Iraqi expatriates, who voiced remarks and comments affirming their affection for their mother country, great Iraq, and its historic leadership.

'Aziz Confers With Iraqi Expatriates

JN0411163293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has expressed appreciation for the positions of the Iraqi expatriates that support the steadfastness of the sons of great Iraq. He also expressed appreciation for the expatriates' call to end the embargo imposed on Iraq.

During a meeting today with a delegation of Iraqi expatriate health and medical workers who reside in the United States, led by Dr. Shakir al-Khafaji, head of the second conference of Iraqi expatriates, 'Aziz lauded the aid, medicines, and medical materials given by the Iraqis residing abroad.

On behalf of his colleagues residing in the United States, Dr. al-Khafaji said all Iraqis everywhere support Iraq and that they are ready to extend whatever they can to their homeland's sons in order to bypass the current difficult circumstances. They are ready to work for an end to the unjust embargo, he added. The head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society attended the meeting.

Allied Use of Facilities Protested to Arab League

26-28 Oct Sorties Reported

JN0111112693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League over the facilities being offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace, noting that this seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 26, 27, 28 October, these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and conducted 66 hostile sorties.

Iraq's representative asked that the letter, along with a list detailing the violations, be circulated to member states.

29-31 Oct 'Violations' Protested

JN0411122293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League over the facilities being offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace, noting that this seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said on 29, 30, and 31 October, these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and conducted 90 hostile sorties.

Iraq's representative asked that the letter, along with a list detailing the violations, be circulated to member states.

Three 'Senior' Officers Desert, Flee to Kurdistan

NC0311161293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Three senior officers of Saddam's army have fled the regime's repression and made their way to Iraqi Kurdistan. This escape comes in the context of increasing desertions from the Iraqi Army. According to our sources, Saddam's authorities arrested many Kurds in the area between Mosul and Irbil and announced that they will not release them until the three escaped officers return. The officers in question have not been identified by name or rank.

Minister: Dahuk Power Cut Caused by Embargo

JN0311155593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Iraq has again refuted biased reports circulated by foreign news media about a power failure in Dahuk governorate that is a result of the inability to find a supply of replacements for damaged parts in the electrical networks in this governorate.

An authorized source at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals said yesterday that the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee has not agreed to allow Iraq to import spare parts used for electric power generation and the machinery needed for the electricity network. This has resulted in a power failure in this governorate.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf had addressed letters to several parliamentarians in Germany, Italy, and Britain urging them to support the Iraqi effort to obtain the Sanctions Committee's approval to import the materials and spare parts needed for power generation.

The Foreign Ministry presented lists of the needed relevant materials to the office of the UN humanitarian program coordinator for the same purpose.

The foreign minister's message says:

Your Excellency: I would like to inform you that the electricity sector in Iraq is facing serious problems as result of the unavailability of spare parts for power stations. Our attempts to import spare parts have been rejected by some members of the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee. In addition, the governments of some industrial countries have forced companies in these countries not to foster Iraq's requests for spare parts for power stations. Many companies presented requests to obtain the approval of the Sanctions committee to import spare parts or to complete electrical projects that were contracted for before 2 August 1992. However, these requests were rejected by the Sanctions Committee.

Many foreign companies, especially German, Italian, and Japanese companies, did not respond to the correspondence of the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals concerning the importation of the required spare parts, on the pretext that their governments do not consider spare parts and materials used for the operation of power stations to be urgent and excluded, although they are civilian and human materials that are actually excluded from the UN Security Council resolutions.

On this occasion, I would like to explain to your excellency that it is one of the basic and urgent civilian human needs of the Iraqi people to ensure that power generation is maintained and carried to various sectors, especially homes, which consume about 60 percent of the overall produced electrical power. This also includes the health sector, especially hospitals, health centers, sewage, and draining of waste water which has direct and serious effects on the health and environment. UN Security Council Resolution 661, paragraph 4, and Resolution 678, paragraph 20, have actually excluded the requirements of maintaining and distributing electricity as well relevant spare parts and relevant materials from the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

I would like to add that the reports of the UN secretary general's envoys, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and Martti Ahtisaari, the report of Harvard University in the U.S., and all reports issued by humanitarian missions and organizations have stressed the urgent need for spare parts and materials to cover the existing shortage in the electrical sector as a result of the destruction and damages that this sector has suffered as a result of the U.S., British, French, and allied air bombardment.

Your Excellency, I ask your excellency to intervene with your government and the companies specialized in and producing electrical equipment in your country in order to supply Iraq with spare parts and the materials required for the activation of power stations. Thus, you would be making a welcome contribution that will be appreciated by the Iraqi people, and will ease the suffering of broad sectors of these patient people, especially in the home and health sectors. I am enclosing with this letter lists of the needs of the electricity networks for spare parts and necessary materials.

It should be noted that the Iraqi permanent mission to the United Nations in New York has presented these lists to the UN Sanctions Committee to obtain its approval for the exportation of these supplies to Iraq. We hope your move to urge your government and concerned companies in your country to support and meet the Iraqi request will yield the desired, positive result.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraq's foreign minister

Kurds Seek Power Supply From Turkey

NC0311195393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] International news agencies have reported that a delegation from the Kurdistan government has left for Ankara in an attempt to secure an electrical supply from Turkey to Dahuk Governorate, where the power supply has been cut by the Iraqi regime since August.

Citing Kurdish officials, reports indicate that it is possible to provide a power supply to that region by December. Western correspondents have reported that the Turkish Government wants to avoid any humanitarian problems as a result of the drop in temperature and the cold weather in the fall.

Security Sweeps Reported in Maysan, al-Basrah

NC0311171293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Forces of the ruling regime carried out broad sweeps of all the villages situated along al-'Amarah-al-Basrah highway, between Qada' Qal'at Khalid, in Maysan Governorate, and (al-Qunah), in al-Basrah Governorate.

Our sources in the south say that infantry forces, units of the Military Intelligence Department, and members of the ruling party took part in the sweeps. Dozens of young men have been arrested. According to the sources, the sweeps included the villages of (al-Jayshah) and (Ikfar) and the Abu Gharb area. Ahead of the sweeps, the inhabitants of these villages were warned to leave and go to other areas. The inhabitants were told the move was necessary for security reasons.

Marshland Villages Seen 'Lying in Ruins'

NC0311170693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Travelers to the south, particularly those passing along the road between al-Nasiriyah and al-Fuhud in al-Shibaysh District, have noticed that dozens of villages are lying in ruins after their residents were forced to flee because of continuing artillery bombardment by the regime's forces, the lack of water, the creeping drought, and the lack of agriculture.

According to our sources, the residents, searching for safer areas in which to make their new homes, have been forced to sell the roofs, windows, and doors of their houses. This has created a special market for such items. Agents working for the tyrant Saddam's security and intelligence services are encouraging this trade.

Citing several citizens from these areas, our sources added that as a result of the tremendous pressures exercised by the regime's forces—who use various types of weapons against them, the lack of water for irrigation and drinking, and the drying up of the marshlands on which they used to depend for their food, the residents are selling whatever possessions they have left, including the disassembled parts of their houses and emigrating to other areas to stay alive.

Minister: Food Subsidies Total 99 Percent of Cost

JN0311181693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has asserted that the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq is, from the legal point of view, a violation of all international norms and conventions, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

During a meeting with participants in the first conference of Iraqi expatriates working in the areas of health and medicine, the minister added that one of the prime objectives of the embargo is to achieve political purposes aimed at undermining the unity of Iraq—territory, civilization, and people.

The minister urged Iraqi expatriates to expose the double standards being employed by the United States and its Western allies against Iraq. He also asked them to appeal to humanitarian organizations to release the Iraqi assets frozen at foreign banks to enable Iraq to purchase the food and medicine requirements needed by citizens.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih reviewed the advantages of the ration card system used by the state, saying that this card is ensuring a fair distribution of food supplies among citizens throughout Iraq. He deemed the use of ration cards a weapon needed to confront the embargo. He maintained that the state is subsidizing food supplies with 99 percent of the cost, while citizens pay for only one percent of the cost of the commodities distributed in accordance with the ration card system.

Medicine Shortages Blamed on Black Market Trade

NC0311162093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Individuals closely connected with the ostracized regime are obtaining quantities of the medicine and medical equipment that international humanitarian organizations have sent to Iraq and selling them on the black market, according to sources close to the tyrant's Health Ministry.

According to these sources, the amount medicine and pharmaceuticals arriving from abroad is sufficient to meet most of the country's needs if it is distributed fairly to hospitals and pharmacies. The short supply of medicines, their mounting prices, and the accompanying increase in the population's death rate are due to the monopoly held by merchants with close ties to the ruling clique, the sources said.

Egypt's Musa To Meet With Peres, Rabin

Peres Speech Greets Musa

TA0411083593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0750 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' welcoming speech upon the arrival of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at Ben-Gurion Airport—live, in English]

[Text] Welcome, a colleague and a friend, the foreign minister of Egypt, who was just renominated to the new government after the election of the president. Mr. 'Amr Musa's comings—as our going to Cairo—became part of the maintenance of the peace negotiations in the Middle East, not necessarily just between Egypt and Israel, because the relations between Egypt and Israel are rather satisfactory, but I do believe that Egypt, as well as Israel, are deeply interested to further the peace momentum.

The negotiations in Taba, in my judgment, are taking their normal course, including some crises which are unavoidable. When 'Amr Musa is coming over, it is not just an indication that we are having a crisis but also that [words indistinct] way out of the crisis. I think this is the main purpose of his coming. [Words indistinct] will be able to manage it.

Normally, we have to deal with an unprecedented situation, so we do have some surprises. Then again, I think our two countries are committed to continue the search for peace all over the Middle East until we shall reach a comprehensive peace comprising all countries. I want to make it clear that as far as Israel is concerned, we do not exclude any country from the peace circle. We do believe that peace will be completed when it will completely include all parties, including the Syrian party, including the Lebanese, including the Jordanian party, in addition to the Palestinian one. And even then, we shall have to continue and build a new Middle East so as to raise the standard of living of all people in this region. I am convinced that the higher the standard of living will become, the lower the standard of violence will go down. And we don't want to keep the present situation but to expand it in size and improve it in altitude and achievements.

So, we are very happy that the foreign minister of.... [Peres' voice drowned out by correspondent's translation] Welcome!

Musa Details Goals of Visit

TA0411085893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0758 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Address by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa upon arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport—live, in English]

[Text] Thank you very much, Shim'on, for the words of welcome and for the friendly reception. I am here, as you have rightly described it, not to talk about a crisis but to find a way out of whatever crisis that we are facing—not only a way out but a way forward. It is a very important process that we are all involved in. We are all interested in peace—genuine, real, and just. The negotiations will take their own course. We don't want major crises. We are aware that difficulties are there. We are aware of the normal course of negotiations ups and downs, but the goal should be agreed upon: that is, to implement faithfully and seriously the agreement between Israel and the PLO in letter and spirit. And I am sure that this is the goal, the intention of both parties.

My talks today will deal with all the tracks of the peace process. I am glad to have this opportunity to exchange views with my colleague and friend, the foreign minister of Israel. I am carrying a message from President Mubarak to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Thank you very much.

Peres, Musa Comment After Meeting

TA0411102993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0940 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa entered the Prime Minister's Office a short time ago for a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin. His meeting with Foreign Minister Peres, which lasted 30 minutes longer than planned, ended a few minutes ago. We heard the remarks of the two ministers following their meeting.

The Egyptian foreign minister said they discussed, among other things, the issues of the negotiations between Israel and Syria and the Taba crisis. We asked Foreign Minister Peres what was so special about 3 November. Mr. Peres downplayed the significance of his remark regarding this date. He said that the media blew his remarks out of proportion and that he was not hinting about anything special in the works behind the scenes. This is what Foreign Minister Peres had to say:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Yesterday I said: Today is 3 November; well, yesterday was 2 November. This is what I said.

[Correspondent] Mr. Peres, was your intention to hint at a possible breakthrough in the wake of meetings between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Syrian officers in Europe over the last few days?

[Peres] No, I know nothing about this. Had I known about such a thing, I surely would not have divulged it. Since such meetings did not take place, however, I can say so clearly.

[Segal] Mr. Peres, did your meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister center on the Israeli-Syrian issue?

[Peres] The Syrian issue was also discussed. Our meeting, however, centered on two main issues: one, the Taba negotiations. We reviewed the problems which have surfaced in these negotiations; two, we are facing a long series of meetings in the economic sphere, which will have a great impact on the entire peace process,

including that aspect of it you just asked about. Early next week, the economic working group will meet in Copenhagen to deal with the economic sphere. There will also be a meeting of the donors to the Middle East, in which Egypt and Israel will also participate. We also have to establish a joint Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli committee and must determine the nature of the relations between the territories, Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. All these are very significant issues, and we want to coordinate our activities.

[Correspondent] Is it possible to say that the Taba crisis is behind us and that the talks will resume next Sunday according to plan?

[Peres] I think the Taba crisis was caused, to a certain extent, by a misunderstanding, and I hope this misunderstanding will be clarified by the end of the day.

[Correspondent, in English] Mr. Musa, can you say if the crisis in Taba is over and that the talks are going to resume next week?

[Musa, in English] We hope that it will be over, but I believe that we are going to meet ups and downs in all talks. This is the nature of talks, of negotiations, especially in such a complicated question, but I hope when I leave here today I will be more optimistic. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Musa Meets Rabin, Relays Syrian Message

TA0411114993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Report from the Prime Minister's Office by Hayim Hecht—live]

[Text] After the Rabin-'Amr Musa meeting ended, the reporters were handed a scoop: There is a new message from the Syrians.

Musa's meeting with the prime minister started tete-a-tete, after which the so-called teams went in. They included Major General Amnon Shahaq, our chief delegate to the Taba talks, and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq.

The participants conducted a detailed discussion on Taba affairs, with officers spreading out maps and presenting the visitor with the same IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment plans that infuriated the Palestinians. Reporters asked prime minister's staffers if Golan Heights maps were spread out. They, however, replied with determination: Gaza maps only.

The meeting ended with another tete-a-tete. Afterward, 'Amr Musa came out to the waiting reporters:

[Begin Musa recording, in English] I am optimistic that things are going in the right direction on the Palestinian-Israeli track and with definite hopes for the other tracks, Syrian-Israeli track. [end recording]

Naturally, the negotiations with the Syrians stood at the center of the prime minister's conversation with the visitor. As we heard, a new message from President Mubarak has been received, but the visitor refused to divulge its contents. Alongside the concrete message al-Asad conveyed to Yitzhaq Rabin through the good services of President Mubarak, there is also President Mubarak's personal impression from his extended conversation with al-Asad in al- Ladhiqiyah. Musa pointed out here that the impression was very favorable: Al-Asad is ready to advance the process right now.

Musa Carrying Rabin Message to Mubarak

TA0411133093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said at the conclusion of his visit to Israel that he is carrying an important message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to President Mubarak. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Musa said he is convinced that the Taba talks will be resumed next week.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the talks with Musa focused on the Syrian issue, among other things. I do not know whether progress with the Syrians will start with a summit meeting, Peres said, but we are continuing to search for ways to make progress.

Rabin on Musa Message From Mubarak

TA0411155793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Egyptian foreign minister had delivered a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with regard to the possibilities of promoting the peace process with Syria and other states. The message also dealt with the continuation of the Taba talks.

Mr. Rabin, however, expressed the opinion that it was still premature to speak of a breakthrough on the Syrian track. He noted that Israel was currently focused on implementing the agreement with the PLO. Rabin asserted that the security arrangements were what currently interested him in this agreement. Israel was insisting on carrying out its responsibilities in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and effectively guaranteeing the security of the Jewish settlements and of people driving through the territories.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Prime Minister Rabin was speaking at a meeting of the Labor party's Central Committee.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Returns From Tunis

TA0411082693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] An Israeli team, headed by a senior Foreign Ministry official, has returned from Tunis after meeting with PLO representatives. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the team was headed by Shlomo Gur, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's political

adviser. The mission of the Israeli team was concluded during Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat.

'Political Developments,' Secret Talks Reported

TA0411073193

[Editorial Report] Several Hebrew newspapers on 4 November cite Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as having said in an Israel Television interview on 3 November that "the day when additional political developments will take place is not far off." The papers note that he would not elaborate any further, but before entering the studio where the interview was held, Peres reportedly told his interviewers: "Remember this date, 3 November." The papers then proceed to offer various assessments of what Peres' remarks were meant to imply.

A report by Hemi Shalev and news agencies on pages A1 and A8 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ notes: "A few people who were in on the secret last night expressed their surprise at the fact that Peres chose to make the disclosure. They confirmed the existence of a development but would not divulge the details.

"According to several sources, Peres may have conferred two days ago with a senior Arab figure, perhaps King Husayn. Peres and his aide Avi Gil disappeared for a few hours on Tuesday [2 November], the day of the municipal elections. If he indeed met with King Husayn, it is assumed that they discussed the formulation of a bilateral peace agreement. According to other sources, Peres held the first meeting of its kind with a senior Saudi personality.

"Two other political developments related to Peres' remarks remain unexplained: a phone call initiated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Tuesday to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Rabin adviser Jacques Neriya's sudden departure last night for Cairo.

"Neriya is due back tonight. Israel Television quoted a senior source as saying that Neriya's trip to Cairo had to do with anticipated developments in the peace process. The source denied that the trip was related to an Egyptian plan to convene a high- level Israeli-Syrian meeting.

"U.S. sources claimed that Rabin phoned Christopher to brief him about the difficulties in the Taba talks.

"Political sources last night refused to elaborate but said that the political development 'is not related to either Syria or the Palestinians'."

The report adds that when asked last night about the "dramatic developments" about which Peres hinted, "Rabin said he has no idea. Over the last 48 hours, Peres and Rabin have held at least three lengthy coordinating sessions, including one meeting last night which went into the wee hours."

A report by Pe'erli Shahar on pages 1 and 4 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR suggests that in Peres' meeting "with government officials from an Arab country, the groundwork was laid for the formulation of a peace agreement with another Arab country, apparently Tunis."

A report by Amnon Barzilay on page 1 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT adds that "Shlomo Gur, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's adviser, secretly visited Tunis." The report does not specify the date of the visit and includes no details about it.

A report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Washington correspondent Hayim Shibi on pages 1 and 15 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT says: "Representatives of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred with Jordanian officials over the past few days in various locations in Europe under a heavy shroud of secrecy."

The paper's political correspondent claims to have learned that the Israeli and Jordanian representatives discussed "bilateral cooperation on economic issues and questions pertaining to Israeli-Jordanian cooperation upon the establishment of the Palestinian self-government. An understanding and a breakthrough were attained, the specifics of which will be made public very soon. U.S. Administration officials were involved in the contacts.

"They also agreed on the date of the meeting of the joint Israeli-Jordanian economic committee, which will apparently convene in Paris next week."

Rabin Aide Dismisses Report of PLO Spy

TA0411100593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 93 p 4

[Report by Eldad Beck and Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpts] Palestinian sources in Tunis and Amman have reported that the Tunisian security services arrested one of the heads of the PLO's internal security department in Tunis on charges of spying for Israel.

Forty-four-year-old 'Adnan Yasin and his 20-year-old son Hani were arrested on 25 October on charges of conspiring with the Mosad, spying for Israel, and conspiring to assassinate PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Although the Palestinians take this affair very seriously, a source close to 'Arafat told HADASHOT that Yasin's exposure would not lead to tension between Israel and the PLO.

Reacting to the report, Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, said: "It is all nonsense."

Beilin on Peres Remarks, Reports of Mole in PLO

TA0411094393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Yaron Wilensky and Pnina Bat-Tzvi—live]

[Text] [Wilensky] Good morning, Deputy Minister Beilin. We look forward to hearing your comment on what happened on 3 November.
[Beilin] Can you move on to the next question?

[Bat-Tzvi] Look, we have been told to remember 3 November.
[Beilin] So why don't you?

[Wilensky] Do you know why?
[Beilin] Look, guys, do you think that when the foreign minister mentions a date on television, you can ask me and I will tell you all about it?

[Bat-Tzvi] What is the point in tossing the date about, if there is no intention of sharing it with us? He could have said nothing. All right, I can tell you would genuinely like to move on to the next question.
[Beilin] I am not ready to answer this question. It is useless playing this kind of game.

[Bat-Tzvi] Newspapers report this morning that your aide, Shlomo Gur, is in Tunis.
[Beilin] My aide is not in Tunis; he is back now. He went to follow up on several issues on which we had agreed during our previous visit. His visit has nothing to do with the issue you just raised. It is definitely unrelated to whatever the foreign minister was speaking of.

[Bat-Tzvi] Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin, I would like to ask you what it is that you expect to come out of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel today. How true is the evaluation that an agreement of principles will be signed with Syria by the end of the year?
[Beilin] I sincerely hope it happens, but it is very hard to tell. There is nothing sacred about 31 December 1993. I think we will do all we can to expand the peace process and achieve a comprehensive peace with the Arab countries. Syria is definitely a key country, and whether we like it or not, there will be no comprehensive peace without Syria. I, for one, do not like this, but it still remains a fact. We must not, however, allow Syria to veto the progress on the other tracks. For that reason, we are pursuing—and will do so in the future—a policy that says Syria should not be allowed to veto anything but, at the same time, every effort should be made to advance the process with Syria. I hope this policy will result in very significant progress with Syria—perhaps to the extent of a peace agreement—within months.

And yet, there are many difficulties. We are absolutely in the dark about what it is that makes al-Asad tick these days. Is he truly ready to make full peace, with all the components of peace, including diplomatic ties, economic ties, borders, and so forth, or is he speaking of something more like lip service? I admit that to this minute, over two years into the negotiations with Syria, we still do not fully comprehend his intentions.

[Wilensky] As for the crisis in the Taba talks, will the supreme Liaison Committee have to convene? Will the intervention of more senior ranks be required to get the talks moving?
[Beilin] I do not rule out this possibility. This is the structure of the negotiations: the Taba talks; the Liaison Committee, headed by Peres on our side and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] for the PLO; and there is always the possibility of a meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat. These options are open if the need arises, which I hope will not happen.

[Bat-Tzvi] As things look now, will such a meeting be necessary?
[Beilin] I hope not. I hope the Palestinians will return to Taba next week to continue the negotiations. Their quitting was absolutely unjustifiable, and I think we will be able to reach agreement on all the issues on the agenda. I do not know of any issue on the agenda that can be a real obstacle on the path to an agreement, and I sincerely hope we will be able to sign an agreement on Gaza and Jericho within the two months earmarked for that purpose.

[Bat-Tzvi] To what extent are the reports published over the past two days about the exposure of an Israeli mole inside PLO-Tunis liable to unsettle the Israeli-Palestinian track?
[Beilin] I do not know. I do not think it is related in any way. I do not know how true it is. I simply do not know.

[Wilensky] Thank you for this interview, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.
[Beilin] Thank you.

Ministers 'Bewildered' by Peres Stand on Syria

TA0411070593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Government sources have voiced the opinion that an agreement of principles can be achieved with Damascus next year. Meanwhile, senior ministers said they are bewildered by the stance taken by Minister Peres recently on the issue of negotiations with Syria. Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin Hecht recording] [passage omitted] Shim'on Peres' attitude toward Damascus is an enigma to his fellow ministers. We do not understand what it is that he wants, three senior ministers told me. He says that al-Asad is not important, that Syria will wait, but he does not explain why, they said. The ministers further revealed that the Americans are equally bewildered by the transformation in Shim'on Peres' attitude.

The foreign minister's bureau had this to say in reaction: Peres and Rabin are fully coordinated on the political process. As for the Syrians, the foreign minister adheres to the well-known Israeli stands, the bureau said. [end recording]

New IDF Commander Assumes Office in Gaza Strip

TA0411111293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 93 p 12

[Report by Arye Kiesel]

[Text] Brigadier General Doron Almog, 42, becomes the commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip today. He replaces Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', who will serve as head of the Security Subcommittee in the Taba talks.

Brig. Gen. Almog was the commander of a paratrooper company in the Yom Kippur War, commander of a paratrooper commando unit in the Entebbe operation, commander of the Paratrooper Brigade, and chief paratrooper and infantry officer.

Peres Briefs Bundestag Deputies on Investment Need

LD0311193093 Hamburg DPA in German 1752 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem (DPA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has appealed to Germany and the countries of Europe to encourage the private sector to invest in the Middle East if there are insufficient public funds available at present. During talks with deputies from the Bundestag today Peres mentioned the possibility of guaranteeing private investments with state credit guarantees. This could also contribute toward combating unemployment in Germany and other states, he said.

The Israeli foreign minister welcomed a delegation from the Bundestag defense committee with its chairman Fritz Wittmann (CSU) and then had talks with SPD [Social Democratic Party] Bundestag group leader Hans-Ulrich Klose.

Israeli participants in the talks said Peres told the defense experts that it is important to build up an economic rather than a military infrastructure in the Middle East. Israel is greatly interested in expanding economic ties with Germany and other states of the European Community.

The contacts between the German and Iranian secret services were also discussed during the talks. Peres assured that the government in Jerusalem has no objections at all to this.

The delegation from the defense committee and Klose will also meet with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Jerusalem Mayor-Elect on City Building Plans

TA0311184393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem's Mayor-Elect Ehud Olmert says he will promote building of Jewish neighborhoods along the old Green Line to make the redivision of the city impossible. But he did not favor such building inside densely-populated Arab areas, as this could create confrontation and hostilities. Olmert was speaking to the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem, and Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] I am committed to respecting the feelings of the Palestinian population, Ehud Olmert said. He would not promote public housing projects for Jews inside densely-populated Arab neighborhoods, but he was determined to make the redivision of Jerusalem impossible.

[Olmert] I think that if we firmly and sincerely believe in the integrity of the city as one city, then the area which has to be built is the former borderline, around the former borderline between the east and the west, and not necessarily in densely-populated areas where such building can create confrontation and hostilities between Jews and Palestinians. I'm not looking for it.

[Katzenell] However, if a Jew or a group of Jews bought a few more houses in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City they were perfectly within their rights, Olmert said, and so were the Arabs who sold the houses. The municipality could not interfere, and in Olmert's view, it should not.

Asked if an Arab could buy a house in one of the Jewish neighborhoods in west Jerusalem, Olmert said: Absolutely.

[Olmert] If an Arab from the east side wants to live in Rehavya and he buys a house in Rehavya, then he will live in Rehavya and no one will ban him or limit him.

[Katzenell] What about the housing shortage among East Jerusalem Arabs? Was Olmert prepared to promote housing projects for them? Would he allocate land for them? He said he would do everything in the power of the municipality to serve the Palestinian population. They deserve to be taken care of, he said, and he accused Teddy Kollek's administration of neglecting the roads, the sanitation, and the infrastructure in Arab East Jerusalem. [end recording]

German Foreign Minister Kinkel Arrives 3 Nov

To Discuss Peace Process

JN0311111993 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has arrived in Amman from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on a brief visit.

Mr. Kinkel will be received by his majesty the king and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

He will also hold talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan on bilateral relations, economic cooperation, and the Middle East peace process.

Kinkel, King Hold Talks

JN0311160193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received German Foreign Minister Dr. Klaus Kinkel and his accompanying delegation today at the Royal Hashemite Court. Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting.

Dr. Kinkel conveyed to his majesty greetings from German President Richard von Weizsaecker and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. His majesty and the German foreign minister discussed the distinguished bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them. They also reviewed regional and international issues, particularly the Middle East question and the peace process. The two sides agreed on the need to support the peace process and keep up its momentum to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in a region which has long suffered tension and conflict.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali also received Dr. Klaus Kinkel at the Prime Ministry today. Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the peace process and Jordan's stand toward the bilateral and multilateral talks, which is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for- peace principle, and the Jordanian role, which contributed to highlighting the Palestinian identity of the Palestinian people to enable them to take part in the peace process.

They also reviewed bilateral ties and ways of promoting them in all areas to serve the interests of the two friendly nations, as well as the role Germany could play in supporting Jordan economically on the bilateral level and through the European Community.

The meeting was attended by Samir Khalifah, Jordan's appointed ambassador to Germany, the accompanying delegation of the guest minister, and the German ambassador in Amman.

The Jordanian side, led by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the German side, led by Dr. Klaus Kinkel, German foreign minister, held a session of bilateral talks this morning at the Foreign Ministry.

At the outset, al-Hasan reviewed the distinguished relations between Jordan and Germany, which are fostered by His Majesty King Husayn and the German leadership. He praised Germany's support for Jordan on the bilateral level and through the European Community.

The minister also reviewed Jordan's position on the peace process in its bilateral and multilateral aspects, which is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and the return of legitimate rights to the Palestinian people.

Al-Hasan also reviewed the democratic march Jordan enjoys and is eager to promote and which is based on political pluralism, supremacy of the law and the institution, and respect for human rights.

For his part, Dr. Kinkel praised Jordan's role in the peace process, reiterating his country's support for Jordan politically and materially. He also valued the distinguished bilateral relations, underlining his country's concern to develop and promote them.

DM30 Million Earmarked for Territories

LD0311175093 Hamburg DPA in German 1528 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Amman (DPA)—Germany wants to take a more active part in the Middle East peace process. Funds for this would also be increased, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said to the press in Amman today after talks with King Husayn and other members of the Jordanian leadership. In addition to its share of the EC contributions, Bonn would provide almost 30 million marks for the Israeli occupied areas of the West Bank and Gaza. Additional aid was planned for 1994. According to Kinkel, Bonn is currently examining, in close cooperation with its EC partners, whether a diplomatic mission can be opened in the area.

Jordan can also continue to expect financial aid from Bonn, according to Kinkel. The waiving of debts of almost 10 million marks and a debt rescheduling agreement within the framework of the Paris Club were planned. At the request of the Jordanian partners at the talks, including Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali, a German aid program for the areas of education and professional training was agreed. According to Kinkel, other topics of discussion were the consequences of the Iraq embargo for Jordan, Iran's ambitions in the region, and the situation in Somalia. The German foreign minister received support for Bonn's wish to be a member of the UN Security council. Kinkel plans to leave Amman for Germany this evening.

Kinkel Holds News Conference

JN0311193593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded translation in English; German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel identified by caption]

[Text] Despite the fact that the visit of the German foreign minister to Jordan has been very brief, he affirmed at his news conference that his talks with Jordanian officials were useful in all areas of discussion.

"The talks took place in an extremely friendly and in a very good atmosphere, as is, I think, in keeping and in line with our general relationship with Jordan. As concerns bilateral relations with Jordan, I first and foremost acknowledged and praised the democratization process under way in this country. We then discussed extensively the elections that are going to take place here on 8 November. And, if I may just briefly point out, we had bilateral negotiations going on in Bonn recently and we had agreed to make available a further 43.8 million Deutsche marks. As concerns the general debt rescheduling that will be going on inside the Paris Club, the German side has agreed to reschedule 9.5 million deutsche marks, but that has to be seen in the larger frame of the general debt rescheduling going on."

On the recent developments in the peace process and the German position on them, the German minister said:

"We concentrated very much on the Middle East peace process, and we are very grateful for the support that Jordan has extended to this process. I praised the moderate and very supportive part that Jordan is playing in this whole thing. Now that the very important first step has been taken—an agreement has been reached between the PLO and the Israelis—now that that step has been taken, it is important to see to it that further steps follow. Of course, that is very important. And this is something that concerns all the parties involved. They are deeply concerned by what is going to take place and by what has happened."

Abu-Nuwar Meets Russian Foreign Ministry Official

JN0311181993 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Minister of Information Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has received the head of the Press and Information Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry. The minister reiterated Jordan's constant stands towards the peace process based on justice and international legitimacy. The Russian official reiterated Russia's full support for the peace efforts, since Russia, being one of the two sponsors of the peace process, is interested in achieving security and stability in the Middle East.

Chinese Military Official Visits 16 Oct

JN1610200493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Today, Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al- Ka'abinah received Lieutenant General (Hitsu Ching), assistant director of the Military Equipment Department in the Army General Staff of the People's Republic of China, at his office in Armed Forces General Headquarters. The two officials discussed developments in the region, coordination and cooperation, and issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by the assistant chief of staff for organization and planning and the delegation accompanying the guest.

Israeli Proposal at Taba Endangers Peace Process

JN0311135493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Stalemate in the Peace Process"]

[Text] We were not very optimistic regarding Israel's intentions toward the peace process because it is naive to assume that Tel Aviv has so quickly relinquished its aggressive heritage and its expansionist plans.

Such an assumption cannot be accepted before we see practical implementation of all that is written in the agreements and their enthusiastic statements about peace. Without this, everything will remain a mere illusion.

Jordan has repeatedly warned against over enthusiasm about the future of peace in the region before we reap its fruits. By this we mean comprehensive, lasting, and just peace based on international legitimacy, especially Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate the return of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, and the restoration of all usurped Arab rights on all fronts.

Within the framework of the Israeli leadership's aggressive mentality, Israel presented its flawed proposal on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho at the Taba talks a few days ago, and the Palestinian side was forced to suspend the talks because the proposal does not conform with the letter or spirit of the declaration of principles concluded by the two parties.

Although the self-rule agreement does no meet the minimum demands of the Palestinian people and their leadership, and though Israel has realized essential gains from this agreement due to the international and Arab circumstances that are in the interest of the enemy, the Rabin government was not satisfied with these gains. This government continued its attempts to impose more aggressive conditions that empty the entire peace process of its substance and return it to square one.

One of the most important fair demands the Palestinians and the Arabs seek to realize is the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories. What will peace mean if this withdrawal is not realized and if the occupying country does not accept this essential principle?

There is nothing more disdainful to the peace process than the Israeli proposal, which it called maps of withdrawal from Gaza. In fact, the proposal is not a withdrawal but redeployment of Israeli forces in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho while the agreement that was signed calls for full withdrawal.

If the Israeli policy is to continue placing obstacles to peace, we do not think there is any need for the agreement as a whole, and as a result the entire peace process is in danger of collapse. This is because if the negotiations on the Palestinian track falter, they will necessarily falter on other Arab tracks since it is a fact that the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, this prevaricating approach reflects Israel's intentions and objectives.

Once again, we emphasize that the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, should seriously intervene to rescue the process from the crisis caused by Israel, that is, if it wants to prove its credibility in seeking peace, security, and stability in the most explosive region in the world.

Abu-Nuwar on 'Palestine Question,' Elections

JN0211194893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has said that Jordan has handled the Palestine question with a great deal of honesty, honor, sincerity, and faith, and defended it vigorously. He noted that the climate we are experiencing requires all of us to demonstrate vigilance and watchfulness, to take a unified position aimed at achieving common objectives, to safeguard our accomplishments, and to promote our capabilities.

During a meeting with the employees of the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, at the agency's premises today, the information minister added: The firm Jordanian positions toward regional and international issues will honor us and future generations as well.

With regard to the parliamentary elections set to be held on Monday [8 November], the information minister said: The government acts upon the directives of His Majesty King Husayn, leader of th march, to render the elections free, honest, and fair. He affirmed that the government's efforts are focused on maintaining its credibility in this regard.

End To Iraq, al-'Aqabah Blockades Urged

JN0311191193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 26

["Spotlight" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "Siege and Siege"]

[Text] We do not know where our relations with the United States stand. The facts before us, however, show that the essence of U.S. policy toward Jordan has not changed—a policy that took shape during after the Gulf crisis and war.

The siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah is still there. The siege imposed on Jordanian products exported to Iraq is still there. The issue of financial compensations, to which Jordan is entitled as a result of that war and its repercussions, is still far from any serious discussion.

Positive developments, however, have occurred on several levels over the past weeks and may affect U.S. policy toward the region in general and Jordan in particular. These include the encouraging reports issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Iraq on the Iraqi Government's commitment to the Security Council resolutions, the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, and the relative detente in inter-Arab relations.

As a result of its failure to solve the Somali and the Bosnian crises, the Security Council, however, is not working with the same degree of firmness it demonstrated during the Gulf war. This has led to the Council's inability to follow up all on solutions dictated by the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

We are afraid that the siege imposed on Iraq and the Port of al- 'Aqabah will face international indifference, which will further the suffering of the Iraqi people and double the burdens of the Jordanian economy.

Jordan suffers not only from the unjust and imposed siege, but also from huge burdens and losses affecting the lives of 300,000 citizens who still expect compensation from the United Nations to cover some of their huge losses.

The United Nations spent hundreds of millions of dollars on inspection teams' travels to and missions in Iraq, but did not offer any compensation to Jordanians.

The United States and the West have tampered with the fate of the region and its peoples. That is enough! It is time for the Arabs and the international community to take a serious stand and put an end to the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and to the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah and Jordan's trade with Iraq, and to speed up plans to compensate scores of thousands of Jordanian families, who still suffer economically as a result of the war.

$80m World Bank Loan Received for Energy Sector

JN0311125493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 93 p 3

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has received $80 million in a World Bank loan to finance expansion of its energy sector, and the loan will be matched by a Japanese

government loan on the same terms and conditions, officials and diplomats said Tuesday.

The officials noted that the release of the World Bank loan comes after an International Monetary Fund (IMF) approval of Jordan's adherence to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the IMF.

They said the loan would be utilised for several energy projects, particularly for an expansion scheme at the al-'Aqabah thermal power plant. The scheme, which involves increasing the generating capacity to 260 megawatts from the present 130 megawatts at the oil- run plant, was shelved in the late 80s when gas was found in al- Rishah, in eastern Jordan.

At the then prevailing prices, the expansion was to have cost around $300 million. Present estimated cost is unknown.

With the installation and commissioning of an additional 30- megawatt turbine at al-Rishah to two other 30-megawatt generators, gas now accounts for around 15 per cent of the Kingdom's energy needs.

The gas fields at al-Rishah are believed to hold around 215 billion cubic feet of natural gas. Daily production at the fields was raised to 45 million cubic feet along with the installation of the third 30-megawatt generator at the site last month.

Another gas deposit of significant volume has been discovered in an area 50 kilometres away from al-Rishah. Officials said work was continuing at the site to establish the possible reserves there.

Toshihiro Shinohara of the economy section of the Japanese embassy in Amman said, meanwhile, his government had pledged to match the $80 million World Bank loan at a meeting of a consultative group of donors in Paris early this year.

Now that the World Bank loan has been released, "We will be looking into the modalities of the Japanese contribution," Mr. Shinohara told the Jordan Times.

Neither Mr. Shinohara nor the officials could provide the terms and conditions of the loans, such as interest and repayment period, except that they were "soft credits."

The World Bank decision to release the loan was taken in early October after the IMF provided a stand-by certification that Jordan was following the measures stipulated in the economic restructuring programme.

The certificiation also approved a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) quest to increase a ceiling on commercial bank credits for the last quarter of 1993. Under the increase, the ceiling was raised to JD 460 million from JD 400 million for the whole year.

The IMF approval was issued on the basis of an assurance provided by Jordan that it would soon be adopting some of the outstanding measures stipulated in the restructuring agreement.

Jordan has delayed the introduction of a sales tax to replace a current consumption tax until the end of the year. The tax was supposed to have been in place in early 1993.

Motives of al-Karamah Attack Being Probed

JN0411092993 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 3

[Excerpts] The recent attack on a group of Jordanian soldiers northwest of al-Karamah has drawn angry popular reactions in the country. People are unanimous regarding the seriousness of such acts during the current delicate circumstances in the country and which require efforts to maintain Jordan's security and reinforce its stability.

Despite the scarce information available, local and foreign media tried, through their correspondents in Amman, to monitor Jordanian reactions to this operation.

AL-BILAD, which tried to obtain details of the operation, learned from its sources that investigations have continued and that the official organs have not yet reached definite convictions on the real motives behind this crime. However, the government gathered some clues, which provide answers to some questions. [passage omitted]

Although the results of the investigation have not yet been announced, informed sources believe that there are three major possibilities, and these could be summarized as follows:

First, there is a relationship between the perpetrators and forces that are linked with Iran.

Second, the perpetrators are from the "Jordanian Afghans,"—Jordanian volunteers who fought in Afghanistan with the mujahidin against the Communist regime. The majority of those Jordanian Afghans, who are estimated at approximately 40 persons, returned to the country recently.

Third, the perpetrators are linked with a new organization called the Palestinian Hizballah. This organization, which broke away from the Islamic Jihad Movement, is led by Ahmad al-Nubani who is stationed in Syria. The Palestinian Hizballah receives major support from Iran. [passage omitted]

Abu-Ghunaymah: IAF Should Boycott Elections

PM0311170993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Action Front Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Inclination to Boycott Jordanian Elections Despite Strong Relations With the Government"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT— Ziyad Abu-Ghunaymah, member of the Executive Bureau of the Jordanian Islamic Action Front [IAF], declared yesterday that there are foreign designs aimed at pushing Jordan towards violence.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu-Ghunaymah said that the Jordanian Government and the Islamic movement are working hand in hand to foil such designs.

On the issue of the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held in a week's time, Abu-Ghunaymah said: Despite the IAF's victory in its case brought before the Supreme Court of Justice against the interior minister and the fact that it has been allowed to hold election and speech rallies, I still believe that the party [IAF] should boycott the parliamentary elections scheduled for 8 November. He added that this is the view of a large number of the party's leaders and ranks.

Islamic Front To Bring Suit Against Government

JN0311160993 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 3 Nov 93 pp 1, 15

[By 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib]

[Text] In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front [IAF], has described the results of his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn as good.

Al-Farhan had asked to meet with his majesty the king after the dramatic developments that took place at the IAF headquarters, which was besieged by security forces. Moreover, transferred IAF employees were banned from holding a news conference because of their election activities. This caused the IAF and its affiliates to experience a turmoil concerning a possible boycott of the parliamentary elections.

The front's executive bureau held a meeting during which it delegated al-Farhan to make necessary contacts, including a request to meet with his majesty the king before making any decision in this regard.

In statements to AL-ASWAQ, Samih al-Ma'ayitah, an IAF leader, said the meeting with his majesty the king was good and very positive, according to al-Farhan. During the meeting, al-Farhan explained his front's stand toward the violations that took place. He noted that the IAF trusts His Majesty King Husayn's promise, which he always reiterated, that the elections will be free and fair.

Al-Ma'ayitah said it was clear that His Majesty King Husayn was eager to instruct the government to contain these violations. He noted that the meeting revealed to the IAF the head of state's eagerness to keep in contact with various political forces. This reflects well on the front, which adopts the principle of dialogue and continuation rather than the use of escalation to resolve differences.

Al-Ma'ayitah said that after His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with al-Farhan, the option of boycotting the elections was no longer valid. He said the IAF is concerned about continuing the democratic march and Jordan's pioneering role in this field. He added that any violation of this experiment, no matter how small, will distort it and lead to a set back. This is especially true because these are the first elections to be held after the political parties law was issued.

Al-Ma'ayitah revealed to AL-ASWAQ that His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali told al-Frahan during his meeting with him that all the employees who were transferred because of their election activities will return to their previous jobs on 9 November, after the Parliamentary elections are held.

However, al-Ma'ayitah reaffirmed that despite this date, the transferred IAF members will file a law suit against the recent government measure.

8 Nov Election Day Declared Public Holiday

JN0311171593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has decided that Monday, 8 November—the day of elections to the House of Representatives—will be a public holiday for ministries, government departments, and public institutions, to enable employees to exercise their election right.

Tribes, Parties Seen Weakened by Election Law

JN0411095493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4-5 Nov 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—When the one-person, one-vote formula was introduced into Jordan's electoral process in August, political analysts began to predict that tribal affiliations would largely determine the outcome of the Nov. 8 elections. But only several days before polling day, an increasing number of observers feel that the new law has fragmented more families than it united on the campaign trail.

The new electoral formula has not only weakened political parties by preventing the kind of alliances that would have been available to them as an option under the old bloc-voting system, these observers say. The tribes and smaller families have suffered as a result." [no opening quotation marks as published]

"in every clan or tribe, or even family, you have at least four political persuasions, a leftist or pan-Arabist, an Islamist, a right-wing and a neutral independent," a member of the large al-'Adwan tribe says.

"As a result of these inner tribal affiliations, votes are likely to be split not once but twice at least. It is thus not uncommon for a leftist member of the family to vote for

someone other than his cousin, who is running for the election but who nevertheless does not share this ideological or political point of view."

When the 1986 Election Law came under review by the first government of al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir in 1989, the concept of the one-person, one-vote formula was rejected as a possible amendment because it could generate tribal squabbles and splinter the traditional Jordanian concept of community leadership.

But "the new voting formula has made it possible for both parties and tribes to be split over the candidacy of one politician or tribal representative," according to Yasin al-Tarawinah, a pan-Arab candidate in al-Karak.

"Those who pushed for the new law did not want community representation in Parliament but a grouping of individuals who speak with 80 different voices," he says.

But not everyone agrees with Mr. al-Tarawinah's analysis.

"The campaigns are community oriented but not necessarily tribal," says Mustafa Hamarinah, director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

The on-going elections are "parochial" in that they do not concern themselves with national issues, preferring to concentrate on insular local and regional issues, he says.

"The issues and campaigns may be truly provincial, but to say there is consensus on certain candidates on a tribal base is an exaggeration."

A son of a candidate from al-Ramtha agrees. "You will have a split tribal vote even in the most cohesive regions," he says.

No less than 18 candidates are vying for the three Muslim seats allocated to the al-Ramtha and Bani Kananah district.

A few clans, such as the 'Ubaydats in Bani Kananah, the al-Batayinah, in Irbid and the al-Majalis in al-Karak, held tribal primaries and thus decided who their tribal candidates would be. In almost every case, at least one other member of the clan fielded himself as an independent.

With voting members of the 'Ubaydat clan being estimated at 10,000 and the al-Majalis at 6,500, even relatively minor splits could create a threat to the tribal candidates, some observers believe.

Qasim 'Uba, dat, who was his clan's successful candidate during the 1989 elections, is now challenging his official tribes' candidate, after the former deputy failed to win his family's primaries this time. While Bani Kananah observers expect him to take about one-fifth of the 'Ubaydat votes, they do not believe that he would seriously put the election of the official 'Ubaydat candidate into jeopardy.

However, not all clans can count on such outcomes due to the sheer number of their voters.

Three members of the al-Malkawi clan are running for a seat also in the al-Ramtha and Bani Kananah district, and local observers believe their votes will be so split that none of them will win. In the al-Kurah and Northern Bedouin districts, three members of the al-Shuraydah clan, two brothers and their uncle are competing, leaving family voters angry and threatening to boycott the elections altogether.

"Many members of the al-Shuraydahs are angry because the issue of three candidates so closely related will force them to take sides they don't want to take—so many are likely to abstain," a member of the al-Shuraydah clan who lives in Amman says.

In Irbid, on the other hand, former Minister of Health 'Arif al-Batayinah and former Minister of Youth Salih Irshaydat are said to have good chances of success because there is "clan consensus" on their candidacy.

But such consensus appears to be the exception rather than the rule.

In the al-Balqa' district seven members of the large al-'Abbadi clan are contesting the same seat, although they belong to different political persuasions. Na'il Masalihah Zaydan (al-'Abbadi) is one of four members of the Islamic Action Front running for one of six seats allocated for Muslims.

Meanwhile, his relative, Mustafa Shuraykat (al-'Abbadi), is running as a candidate for the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, an offshoot of the Jordanian Communist Party in the same governorate.

This will no doubt split their tribe's vote and weaken all the candidates' chances.

Local observers in almost all districts believe that many political parties including the IAF and the leftist parties looked for the strength of a candidate's tribal backing before choosing him (or her) as their candidate. In almost all districts except the most central Amman districts, where a heavy urban presence brings regional and political factors into play, this does appear to be the case.

It is widely believed that the IAF fielded two official candidates from the al-Majali clan in al-Karak to weaken the hopes of both head of the right-of-centre al-'Ahd Party 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali and his independent cousin Bahjat al-Majali.

"The al-Majali votes won't be cohesive, but the majority will go to 'Abd al-Hadi despite the IAF's attempt to badly split the al-Majali votes," says an independent observer of the al-Karak elections.

In the governorate, there are many people who are saying the tribal character of the region will dominate the election, but many others are betting that the lack of tribal cohesiveness will result in the failure of many major clans to vote in any of their members.

The issues being raised at local rallies in al-Karak concern provincial rather than national issues, and with votes scrambled among over 60 candidates running for nine seats, the number of vote'a single candidate is likely to get are expected to be around 5,000 compared to over 12,000 during the 1989 elections.

"What this means," says parliamentary hopeful al-Tarawinah (one of seven other al-Tarawinahs running), "is that you will have individuals who represent a very limited number of people with very parochial interests dominating (the next) Parliament."

"Despite all talks to the contrary, the winners of this election will not be party leaders nor tribal chieftains," Mr. al-Tarawinah maintains.

"The victors will be those with the most regional appeal," he says. "Consequently you will have a Parliament which will focus almost exclusively on local rather than national and foreign affairs—it might well be the most convenient time to make peace with Israel."

Court Hears Forensic Testimony in al-Tahrir Case

JN0311170793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Nov 93 pp 28, 20

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Text] The State Security Court continued to examine the case of al-Tahrir [Liberation) Party in the presence of the defense of the eight defendants.

The court is chaired by Colonel Hafiz Amin, and includes as members Major Tayil al-Raqqad and Major Fawwaz al-Buqur.

The court heard defense witness Dr. Qays al-Qusus, director of the National Forensic Center, who is an adviser to the health minister and the director of medical services for forensic affairs, and who examined the first four defendants.

The testimony of the defense witness continued until the end of court session. He was questioned by defense lawyers and the court and by Major Muhannad Hijazi, prosecutor general of the State Security Court. The witness said he and his colleagues examined the four defendants using medical equipment.

Dr. al-Qusus said: I found old scars, estimated the time when they were incurred, and how they could be incurred, but I cannot definitely say the reasons that caused these injuries.

The defense witness said: I was assigned with examining the four defendants at the request of the president of the State Security Court in light of the defense demand. After examining each defendant, we wrote a draft report in which the necessary remarks are included. Later, the reports were typed in accordance with the drafts at the National Forensic Center. After the reports were reviewed, they were sent to court. I support all the contents of the medical reports that I and my colleagues prepared.

The court president decided to adjourn until Wednesday morning, when the court will continue hearing the defense witnesses.

U.S. 'Paper' on Peace Talks Received

NC0311161993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Lebanon today received a paper on the peace talks. Vincent Battle, U.S. charge d'affaires in Lebanon, handed the document to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Foreign Ministry sources pointed out that Minister Buwayz had received from the U.S. diplomat a paper on the peace talks whose contents were not disclosed.

Cabinet Rejects Attending Conferences With Israel

NC0311205993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah after an ordinary cabinet meeting at B'abda Palace on 3 Nov—recorded]

[Excerpt] The cabinet held an ordinary meeting this evening at the invitation of the prime minister. His excellency the president chaired the meeting. At the beginning of the session, the minister of electricity and water resources raised the issue of the invitation sent to Lebanon to attend an energy conference for the Mediterranean countries to be held in Greece. His excellency the minister told the cabinet that he had informed the party that sent the invitation that Lebanon would not attend the conference, since it involves multilateral talks.

On this occasion, the cabinet reiterated Lebanon's refusal to attend such conferences in which Israel is participating and asked all Lebanese who are invited, or may be invited, to attend such conferences to turn them down and not to participate in them. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Leaves On Visit to Italy, Vatican

NC0411081493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Beirut for Rome and the Vatican this morning. He was seen off at Beirut Airport by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, a large number of ministers and deputies, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Hizballah Statement Marks Balfour Declaration

NC0411095893 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] On the occasion marking the ill-omened Balfour Declaration, Hizballah issued a statement which says: Seventy-six years after the British promise known as the Balfour Declaration—which granted the Jews what was claimed to be a national homeland in Palestine—the declaration itself is starting to take effect practically. The dream that preoccupied Jews for decades is now a bitter reality, endorsed by the official Arab regimes.

The statement adds that this declaration has started to take effect thanks to the mentality of Arab officials who control the people of the region. This refers to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which embodies the substance of that ill-fated declaration and gives it an official Palestinian legitimacy, now that the Palestinian leadership has fallen for the U.S.-Zionist scheme, which only seeks to obliterate the Palestinian cause and all the facts pertaining to it.

The Hizballah statement adds that the self-rule agreement has pushed the Palestinian issue aside, giving more significance and prominence to the Zionist scheme. It notes that this not only threatens Palestine's history, present, and future, but also jeopardizes the entire region.

The statement expresses the belief that the nation should take a united stand in the face of that scheme and its potential repercussions.

The statement adds: The jihad approach which the Palestinian people have adopted in their blessed intifadah and armed struggle proves to the Palestinians and Arabs that the Zionist entity is not prepared to give anything, even if others give it everything, just as the ill-fated agreement did.

The Hizballah statement adds that the armed jihad approach—which proved effective in Lebanon and forced the enemy to retreat before the heroic struggle of the Islamic Resistance—is the natural choice of the Palestinian people. This jihad is embodied by heroic suicidal heroic operations inside the occupied territories. The sacrifices being made now will bring liberation and pride and will force the enemy to retreat.

The statement concludes that the Islamic Resistance, which has made great sacrifices to expel the enemy, will keep up its jihad approach until the Zionists are compelled to withdraw because it well realizes that this enemy understands nothing but the language of force and that the Resistance can never relent through negotiations and conciliation, because that would give the enemy more strength to continue their aggression and occupation.

Communist Party Assails Government Performance

PM0211124493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Communist Party: Government Has Not Succeeded or Proved Its Distinctiveness"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—In a statement issued on the occasion of the end of the government's first year in office, the Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau said that the government "has not succeeded, kept its promises, or proved its distinctiveness." And that "its structure, performance, policy, and priorities do not meet the essential conditions to ensure the consolidation of civil peace and a way out of the crisis or the requirements for monitoring the difficult negotiation process (in

the Middle East) and potential pressures on Lebanon and for tackling the effects of reorganizing the region in a successful manner."

It also expressed concern that "this situation might once again cause Lebanon to face the possibility of a worse confrontation at the economic-social level and the internal political level, and with regard to the democratic question." It urged political, social, and popular forces "which believe in Lebanon as a democratic homeland once again to form an effective political and popular opposition movement in the face of its policies and its tools."

The party said in its statement that the government, which introduced itself as distinctive, "has adopted the previous traditional practices in its domestic policy. And the domestic political defect has continued to adversely affect political life." It added that "the government has not exerted real efforts to initiate a real national dialogue to tackle the effects of the bad implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and parliamentary elections, which deepened divisions among people." It said that "disputes increased" among the three leaderships [president, prime minister, and Chamber of Deputies speaker) and inside the government itself. It also cited "many people's reliance on foreign aid to solve domestic problems."

The party noted that "government practice has moved toward perpetuating the dominance of the head of government as an individual over the institution's work—which has led to a distortion of political life, which is already suffering from almost total paralysis, and has created the impression that the government's fate is linked with rebuilding and even that Lebanon's fate is linked with its president's." The party criticized "the aspects of showing off, extravagance, and fabricated media noise which have dominated political life," and the "harmful show competition" among constitutional institutions.

The party pointed out that "public, unionist, and media freedoms have been exposed to more dangers than ever before." It said that "administrative reform has been turned into a process of exploiting and sharing new spoils, while sectarian and regional polarization continues." It expressed its belief that "there is duality in the position" on peace negotiations—duality "being concealed by pursuing secret diplomacy in sensitive questions."

In the economic and financial sphere the party said that "fixing the exchange rate of the pound is an important thing, but it must be placed at its natural level," recalling that the dollar's value today is nearly equal to its value on the eve of the 6 May 1991 uprising (toppling of prime minister 'Umar Karami's government). It also said that "the priorities the government espoused in its economic policy do not help to solve the most urgent problems." It added that "the economic and social results of the government's policy are extremely serious."

The party noted that the government's tax policy exempts big capitals and imposes reduced taxes on capital companies like the real-estate company. It said that "the rebuilding of Beirut's center has turned into a monopoly real-estate speculation process from which all those with medium and small capital and those who have rights will be excluded in favor of a handful of big Lebanese and Arab financiers," while "the government continues to pursue the policy of freezing wages against those with limited income..."

Israeli-Resistance Engagements Reported

Israelis Bomb Nahr al-Litani

NC0311065693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the Israeli forces have been bombarding the Nahr al-Litani river basin and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah from their positions in al-Zaffatah since 0645.

Iqlim al-Tuffah Under Fire

NC0411080893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tension prevailed in south Lebanon last night. At 0220 this morning, Israeli forces fired 12 shells at 'Ali al-Tahir hill and the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah. Since approximately 0700 today the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights, particularly al-Luwayzah, Sujud, and al-Jabal al-Akhdar, have been under sporadic bombardment from Israeli positions inside the occupied border strip.

At about 0710 today, resistance fighters shelled the 'Alman-al- Shumariyah position. Immediately afterward, Israeli forces at the al-Shuraykah position shelled the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and the al-Litani River basin.

Israeli warplanes and helicopters flew numerous sorties over the villages located along the contact line in the western and eastern sectors of the security strip all last night. According to our correspondent in the south, Israeli helicopters dropped flares over the villages of Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Frun, Qabrikha, Tulin, the al-Litani River basin, and the al-Saluqi valley. Israeli forces last night raked areas near their position in al-Shuraykah near al- Khiyam after suspecting activities in the area. At 0320 today, two 155-mm shells fell in al-Nafkhah Valley west of Zibqin.

Amal, SLA Units Clash

NC0411084493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The Amal Movement's operations room released a statement this morning that one of its groups clashed with a South Lebanese Army [SLA] unit staging an ambush between the al-Dabshah and al- Tuhrah positions. The clash involved machine guns and rockets and lasted 15 minutes. According to the Amal Movement, Israeli forces shelled the 'Ali al-Tahir mountain and the

deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah immediately afterward. Schools in al- Nabatiyah have been closed as a precaution.

According to our correspondent, a land mine went off at 0500 today in the al-Nafkhah valley between Zibqin and Majdal Zun in the Tyre area, killing Habib Ahmad Rashid and his daughter Rasmiyah.

Resistance Claims Attack on SLA

NC0411111093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance announced a short while ago that one of its groups detonated an explosive device under a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol composed of two personnel carriers along the al-'Ayshiyah-al-Rayhan road at 0930 today. The statement says the members of the patrol were killed or wounded and that the two APC's were damaged. Following the operation, the Israeli and SLA forces raked the area with heavy machine guns and artillery.

Our correspondent in the south reports that Israeli helicopters fired two rockets at the periphery of Shaqra before noon today, but there are no further details.

The townships of Majdal Silm, Bra'shit, Shaqra, and the outskirts of Hula came under artillery fire from Israeli positions within the border strip before noon today.

Al-Shar': Syria To 'Insist' on Madrid Formula

AU0411110293 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 0600 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Report by Michael Kerbler]

[Text] Our reporter Michael Kerbler had the opportunity to have a talk with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the current stage of the peace process. Tape recordings were not permitted during this talk. Michael Kerbler summarizes it as follows:

[Kerbler] Faruq al-Shar', Syria's long-term foreign minister since 1984 and close confidant of President al-Asad, is canvassing for understanding for the attitude of Damascus, which does not yet participate in the negotiations in Washington. We will come to Washington when Israel is prepared for serious negotiations. It is not enough for us that only the preparedness for negotiations is declared. These are only empty words, tactics to win time. Rabin has to stop this game, al-Shar' demands. Addressing Tel Aviv, he adds: Those who do not use the chance for dialogue now will kill the entire peace process in the Middle East.

The wiry 55-year-old diplomat makes it clear that Syria will insist on the results of the Madrid Middle East conference, which not only laid down the formula of land for peace, but also provided for the fulfillment of the relevant UN resolutions 242 and 338. Taking a dig, al-Shar' notes that, with the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the PLO contented itself with far less than is stipulated by the Madrid conference. In my opinion, the most favorable moment for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East was the time immediately after the PLO-Israel agreement, the Syrian foreign minister says. At that time Israel should also have approached the other Arab states. Rabin should not have hesitated. All people in the region would have understood it if at that time a comprehensive peace agreement had been made instead of this single agreement now.

It is clear for Syria that Israel has to return the Golan Heights, with no ifs and buts, that is, completely, if it wants peace with Syria. It is not decisive whether this is done by one single step or in several stages. These are only details, al-Shar' says. If Israel is sincerely prepared to withdraw, a peace agreement will be possible within one month, Faruq al-Shar' states. However, Syria does not want to be under pressure of time. It wants to wait for the consultations with the friendly states, of course, with the United States, too.

How far are the positions of Syria and Israel still apart? Al- Shar' meets this question with a faint smile, greets, and hurries to Hafiz al-Asad, who welcomes his state guest, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

Austria's Vranitzky Meets With Top Leaders

Official Talks Open 3 Nov

JN0311174493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 3 Nov (SANA)—Official talks between the Syrian and Austrian sides began at 1130 today. The Syrian Arab side was led by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Austrian side was led by Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. [passage omitted]

At the outset of the talks, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi welcomed Vranitzky and his accompanying delegation. He said that the Syrian people harbor love and respect for the people and Government of Austria and appreciate Austria's wise policy toward the just international issues and its action to entrench the bases for security and peace in the world.

The prime minister added: Austrian-Arab relations, particularly Syrian-Austrian relations, were characterized by ever-escalating enhancement. These relations developed and reinforced continuously, confirming the two sides' joint conviction of the importance of political cooperation and opening wider horizons for economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation.

The prime minister said that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, is eager to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and based on international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The prime minister said that Israel is deceiving the world public opinion when it portrays itself as the victim at a time when it produces and owns the most sophisticated weapons, occupies other people's territories by force, and defies UN resolutions, noting that Israel is not serious about the peace process.

He said that Syria welcomes any European contribution alongside the United States to push the peace process forward. This is because the achievement of security and a comprehensive and just peace in this region has its positive reflections not only on the region's countries but on the entire world.

The prime minister also noted that Syria is not a big country but is rich in natural resources. He added that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, cleaved its way through many difficulties in order to achieve basic development goals in various fields. It did so based on political and economic pluralism in the public, private, and mixed sectors.

The prime minister reaffirmed Syria's desire to develop cooperation with Austria in various political, economic, technical, and scientific fields to serve the joint interests of both countries.

Vranitzky thanked Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi for his warm reception and the invitation that was extended

to him to visit Syria, since this is the first time an Austrian chancellor has visited Syria.

He said: We sensed Syria's desire to achieve peace. Syria plays a major and important role in the peace process and we, in Austria, value Syria's foreign policy, which enjoys the world's respect.

Vranitzky noted that the European role is very important in giving a push to the peace process. He reaffirmed Austria's willingness to cooperate in this field. He also stressed Austria's desire to develop relations with Syria in various fields and to reinforce and broaden these relations.

Vranitzky extended an invitation to Prime Minister al-Zu'bi to visit Austria. Al-Zu'bi thankfully accepted the invitation, the date of which will be scheduled later.

Talks covered bilateral relations and aspects of bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic field. The two sides agreed to form a joint Syrian-Austrian committee to develop cooperation relations. They also agreed to form a committee in order to formulate a protocol for cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Asad Receives Vranitzky

JN0311150493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and his accompanying delegation at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister; Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus.

Official talks between the Syrian and Austrian sides began at 1130 today. The Syrian Arab side was led by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Austrian side was led by Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. [passage omitted]

Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Vranitzky at 1045 today. The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs; and Robert Karas; the Austrian ambassador in Damascus. Talks covered bilateral relations.

Vranitzky visited the Martyr's Memorial this morning accompanied by Nasir Qaddur. [passage omitted]

More on Al-Asad-Vranitzky Meeting

JN0311192893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 3 Nov (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and his accompanying delegation at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister; Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the peace process in the Middle East and the stage it has reached.

Chancellor Vranitzky said his country is interested in the peace process in the region, adding that he believes Europe can assist the peace process if it adopts a balanced and unbiased stand.

President al-Asad said Syria welcomes the role Europe can assume to help the peace process proceed toward the objectives set for it. President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's abidance by the objectives set for the operation to attain a just and comprehensive peace. He said past stages of the peace process have proved that Syria works to make the peace process a success and that Israel is the one that obstructs it.

Khaddam Confers With Vranitzky

JN0311184493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 3 Nov (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Austrian Cahncellor Franz Vranitzky and his accompanying delegation at 1745 today. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Ba'th, Cypriot Party Delegations Hold Final Talks

JN0211154993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] At 1300 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Spiros Kyprianou, the leader of the Cypriot Democratic Party [CDP] and his delegation. Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] attended the talks.

A final round of talks was earlier convened between the ASBP, led by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, and the CDP, led by Mr. Kyprianou. The two sides assessed the Cypriot team's visit to Syria, both noting their satisfaction with its outcome and citing an identity of views over the issues they discussed. They also completed discussion on the topics addressed at the first session.

At the end of the session, the two sides signed a cooperation agreement between the two parties for 1994 and 1995. Comrade al-Ahmar signed for the ASBP and Mr. Kyprianou for the CDP. Friendly speeches were exchanged at the end of the talks, with the chief delegates pointing out the need for frequent meetings and for more developed ties between the two friendly parties in the best interest of the Syrian and Cypriot peoples.

Cypriot Delegation Departs

JN0311191793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 3 Nov (SANA)—A Cypriot Democratic Party delegation under Spiros Kiprianou has left Damascus for Cyprus at the end of a three-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command. During the visit, the delegation held party and political meetings and talks and concluded a cooperation agreement with the Ba'th party for the next two years.[passage omitted]

Turkish Prime Minister's Envoy Arrives in Damascus

JN0211195093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Volkan Vural, special adviser to Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, arrived in Damascus this evening. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Mr. Muwaffaq Nassar, the chief of Western Europe Department.

Commentary Sees Israel Tactic of 'Killing Time'

JN3110162893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It has become clear that obstructing the peace process is an Israeli strategy that Israeli officials are seeking to implement through various tactics. This is especially true since the results of the secret negotiations in Oslo became public; that is, the Gaza-Jericho accord. Regardless of the contents of the accord—which put everything in Israel's hands—the goals and objectives of the Israeli tactic aimed at killing time have been exposed.

What new climate and time is Israel waiting for in order to impose its hegemony over the region under the banner of peace? Isn't this issue of time found in statements by Israeli officials who talk about the need to freeze the peace process in order to digest the Gaza-Jericho accord? Moreover, don't we see that it is time that Israeli officials are talking about as they try to wage a secret war on one side and a public war on another, both against the formula of the Madrid conference held two years ago. Besides, the peace process has not achieved anything serious on the level of a just and comprehensive peace according to the vision of the founders of the initiative adopted by the participating parties and based on implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy. The foremost of these resolutions are UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, along with Resolution 425, which stipulates Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Isn't Israel wagering on time in order to foil the peace process by striking a fatal blow to it? This is especially so since the Israeli wager is based on inter-Palestinian fighting that could result from the explosion of any of the wicked mines planted in the Gaza-Jericho accord. And the least that can be said about this accord is that each of its articles requires an accord and each accord requires time. The first thing Israel and its delegations in charge of implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord announced is that it is not committed to the timetable specified in the accord.

Isn't Israel wagering on time and other things when it is asks Syria to contribute to the success of the Gaza-Jericho accord while at the same it seeks to keep Syria outside the peace equation and process? Isn't Israel wagering on time when it seeks to foil the Arab boycott and considers the Gaza-Jericho accord a bridge to the heart of the Arab homeland and a way to isolate the Arabs who refuse to give up and relinquish their land and rights? Don't we have the right to be suspicious about what is being set up in the region under the logic of wasting time, not seeking a just and comprehensive peace, and not gaining time in order render the peace process a success? How can peace be achieved while time is wasted by tactics that put the entire region in a difficult situation, the consequences of which are not good, especially if Israel succeeds in killing this opportunity for peace, which is, by all standards, an historical opportunity?

Isn't the action to destroy the Madrid formula in submission to the Israeli blackmail aimed at continuing the peace process based on the Israeli mood—a murky mood that does not seem to be thinking about peace. There is nothing left for the initiative's founders to do except to end this mood because the region and the entire world will be paying the price for its success in bringing the peace process to a deadlock.

Afghanistan

* Hekmatyar, Mas'ud Clash Northeast of Kabul

94P50024A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Muwaf faq Zaydan]

[Text] Peshawar—Violent fighting has broken out northeast of the Afghan capital, Kabul, between the forces of Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and forces loyal to former Afghan Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, inflicting several killed and wounded. The battles began at 0500 yesterday morning when the two sides began to exchange rocket and artillery fire. Eyewitnesses described the battle as the most violent of its kind for the last six months, since the two sides signed a ceasefire in May and then formed an Islamic government under Golboddin Hekmatyar. AL-HAYAH has learned that the forces of the Afghan prime minister began their attacks yesterday on the Tagab region near the city of Sarobi, which is on the road between Jalalabad and Kabul and is a stronghold of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami. It is likely that the latter is striving to expand the security belt of the strategic city, of which Mas'ud recently tried to take control by influencing the commanders of the Shura council of Jalalabad (to attack Sarobi), where the nomadic Ahmadzai tribe is numerous. The leader of this tribe, Shomali Khan, deputy governor of Jalalabad Province, was assassinated about a month ago at the hands of the Shura Council and as a result clashes broke out in the area. The commander of Jalalabad, Haqqani, lost no time in stopping them. Afghan aircraft yesterday conducted several airstrikes yesterday to bomb Hekmatyar positions in Sarobi. It is known that the airforce is still loyal to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, while Hekmatyar's authority does not extend to the Dar-ol-Aman Palace [Ministry of Defense]. According to eyewitnesses, the airstrikes scored a number of hits among both civilians and the military. There is a power generation source in Sarobi which supplies the Afghan capital with electricity, and the current is in danger of being cut off. Hezb-e Eslami sources yesterday claimed that they had taken control of three villages and had smashed two security belts surrounding the area of Tagab, which Mas'ud captured from Hekmatyar's forces last year. Reliable forces declared that an important meeting was held yesterday between Deputy Prime Minister Gotboddin Helal, belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami led by Hekmatyar, and Asef Mohseni, leader of the Shiite Harakat-e Eslami, allied with Rabbani's government in attempting to stop the battles. An extensive exodus preceded these battles from Kabul and Jalalabad to Mazar-i Sharif in northern Afghanistan, controlled by the forces of General Abdol-Rashid Dustam, leader of the Uzbek militias. Dostam severed his alliance with former Communist President Najibollah and became allied with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in April to overthrow the Communist regime. The Afghan sources emphasized that this exodus was to the North—and not to Peshawar—where there is more security and stability, and the UN relief organizations can provide aid to the refugees. The people of Kabul fear that they will perhaps become caught up in violent battles, in view of the fact that the two sides are preparing for a major series of battles which will perhaps be decisive in their struggle for power.

'Heavy Losses' for Hekmatyar Forces

LD0311161893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Following their defeat in the attacks of the last two days, the forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] belonging to Golboddin Hekmatyar yesterday began a new assault on the Tagab district which is still continuing.

Quoting a responsible source of the Ministry of Defense, a BAKHTAR correspondent has reported that Hekmatyar's forces, who began their attacks shortly before noon yesterday, have met with severe defeat and suffered heavy losses. As a result of missile and artillery attacks by Hekmatyar's forces, heavy losses have been inflicted on the residents of the Tagab district in the past two days. During three days of attacks on Tagab district, Hekmatyar's forces have not refrained from every sort of looting of the property of the civilian population of the district. They have looted the property of the people and set fire to houses.

The source added that the forces of the Islamic army have responded to these attacks and have checked their advance.

Kabul Officials Discuss Security Situation

LD0311203593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Chaired by esteemed Fahim, head of National Security, Kabul's security session was held today with Lieutenant General Baba Jan, acting commander of Kabul garrison, participating. The Bakhtar Information Agency reports that assistant commanders of Kabul garrison, the police commander of Kabul Province, the head of National Security of Kabul Province, the commander of security and protection, the assistant mayor of Kabul and [words indistinct] of divisions 53, 70, and 80 attended the session. Talks were conducted on the activities and work of security and social services. In conclusion, the duties of security officials were specified for the improvement of the security situation in Kabul City.

Rabbani Appoints New 'Counsellor Minister'

LD0311194293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Bakhtar Information Agency, citing the press office of the presidency, reports that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has issued a decree appointing esteemed Mohammad Sayid Hashemi as counsellor minister to head the parliament of the presidency [as heard] with a superior rank.

India

'Thousands' Demonstrate Outside U.S. Embassy

BK0411065293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 4 (AFP)—Thousands of members of the youth wing of India's ruling party demonstrated outside the U.S. embassy here Thursday to denounce a senior U.S. official's remarks questioning Indian rule over Kashmir.

Several thousand protestors led by the president of the Youth Congress (I) party, Maninder Bitta, marched on the embassy chanting "U.S. down, down" and "Clinton, do not meddle in Indian affairs," witnesses said.

They were met by hundreds of club-wielding riot policemen who sealed off entrances to the U.S. mission in the high-security diplomatic enclave of the Indian capital and the nearby presidential palace, they said.

Water cannons were deployed in case the demonstrators tried to storm the embassy and armed members of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force formed a protective cordon around the mission.

The protest was called by the Youth Congress (I) after the U.S. official, during a backround briefing for reporters in Washington last week, questioned the validity of Kashmir's 1947 attachment to India for the first time.

New Delhi strongly protested the U.S. official's remarks and summoned U.S. charge d'affaires to the foreign office.

India and rival Pakistan both hold parts of the Himalayan territory and Indian-held Kashmir has been ravaged during the past four years by a violent campaign by Muslim militants for an end to Indian rule.

The separatist campaign in India's only Muslim-majority state has left more than 7,000 people dead since 1989. India and Pakistan have gone to war twice over the region since independence from Britain in 1947.

Spokesman on 'Fruitful' Talks With U.S. Official

BK0311133593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The U.S. under secretary of political affairs, Mr. Peter Tarnoff, has said there is no change or shift in Washington's policy toward New Delhi or Indo-Pak relations and the Kashmir issue. This was conveyed to India's ambassador, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, when he met Mr. Tarnoff in Washington. Mr. Tarnoff said the United States is only interested in normalization of relations between India and Pakistan through a peaceful dialogue.

Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry described the talks as fruitful, frank, and constructive.

Israeli Envoy: Kashmir 'Integral Part' of India

BK0311035993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Israel's ambassador in India, Mr. Dowek, has said that Kashmir is an integral part of India and a solution to the issue can be found only under the Simla Agreement. He was speaking at a function in Trivandrum. Mr. Dowek said the diplomatic relations between Israel and India are progressing well.

Chief Negotiator on 'Collapsed' Shrine Agreement

BK0311131893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Nov 3 (AFP)—An agreement to end a standoff between Indian troops and Moslem guerrillas holed up inside Kashmir's holiest shrine collapsed Wednesday, the chief negotiator told AFP.

"I am deeply disappointed. I was hopeful that everything would be over today but unfortunately something, somewhere went wrong," said Wajahat Habibullah, a top Kashmir administration official who has been negotiating with the rebels.

A government spokesman had said earlier Wednesday that an agreement had been reached to end the 19th-day-old army siege of the Hazratbal shrine.

Talks Fail To Yield 'Desired Results'

BK0411033293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, government's efforts to persuade the militants to come out of the Hazratbal Shrine have not yielded the desired results. Efforts are, however, continuing. The chief government negotiator, who spent almost the entire day yesterday talking to the militants, is likely to continue the dialogue today.

The precautionary curfew is confined to only Nageen police station area. Elsewhere in the city police foiled a bid by militants to set on fire a mosque inside the famous (Maqdoom) Saheb Shrine yesterday morning.

Punjab Police Arrest Chief of Sikh Militants

BK0411075893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] The chief of many terrorist organizations in Punjab, Dr. Sohan Singh, was arrested in Mohali near Chandigarh last night. Addressing a news conference in Chandigarh today, the chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, said it is a severe setback to militancy which was already on its last legs in the state. The director general of police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, who was present at the press conference said it is the greatest achievement of the Punjab police. Dr. Sohan Singh has been spearheading separatism and terrorism in Punjab with support from Pakistan. He visited Pakistan clandestinely many times and established contacts with

terrorist outfits outside the country. He came to help the terrorist outfit known by the name of the Panthic Committee. Militant organizations headed by him were responsible for thousands of killings, robberies, kidnappings, and explosions. The chief minister said Dr. Sohan Singh has been booked under the National Security Act and further investigations are on.

Iran

Activities Commemorate 'Global Arrogance' Day

Khamene'i Marks U.S. Embassy Occupation

LD0311154293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to lecturers and academics from the Ministries of Education and Training and Higher Education; the Union of the Islamic Councils of Pupils; the Bureau of Strengthening Unity; the Union of Higher Education Graduated; the Open Islamic University; Imam Sadiq University; the Teachers' Training Center; the Islamic Society of Students; Basiji students; children of martyrs; pupils of schools in Tehran, Khorramshahr, Shiraz, Mashhad, and Azadshahr; and families of recent Lebanese martyrs on the eve of the 4 November national day of the struggle against global arrogance—recorded]

[Excerpts] [crowd chants "Death to America," "We are all your soldiers, Khamene'i," and "We await your orders, Khamene'i"] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] These are very significant days for the Iranian nation, that is, the memory of the clash between the Iranian nation and global arrogance, the manifestation of which is the U.S. Government.

It is strange that of the three incidents that fall on 4 November, all of which involved clashes between the two, some are such that the Iranian nation was the innocent and injured and oppressed party; some others are such that the American side was punished for its past injustices and oppressions. In my opinion, the occupation of the den of espionage by a number of pious, combative, and brave youth of Iran should be regarded as the latter.

Today the incident is not described in that sense by America. They say that, like all other countries, America had an embassy in Tehran and a number of people occupied the embassy, which was American territory, out of disregard for ethics and international standards, and captured the occupants. That is how they describe the incident in the world, but describing the incident in that way is contrary to the truth and wrong; it was not like that. [passage omitted]

When the revolution was victorious no one harmed the Americans here, or bothered them. They did not take their embassy away from them; they politely let them go back home and no one bothered them, and some stayed in the embassy here. At the same time, however, they started hatching plots, contacting the opposition to the revolution, teaching those leftovers and dredges of the old regime, who had lost any hope of surviving here.

Well, the Iranian nation is alert. It is not unaware; it sees what is happening. On the 13th of Aban, when those students were marching, they went and destroyed that essence of corruption. That is what happened. I say today that that action of our students in 58 [1979] was one of the best deeds in this revolution. [passage omitted]

The den of espionage episode severed the last thread of possible links between the Revolution and America. This served our Revolution immeasurably. It may be that the young people who, at that moment, took this action, could not foresee the repercussions of their action. This may have been so because young people can act impulsively in accordance with their beliefs and emotions. The Almighty, however, endowed these great blessings on that action because it was something that was done on the basis of faith and earnestness. God always brings great blessings on work done through faith and piety. Remember this. Anything you do in earnest will be blessed by God; anything you may do on the basis of materialistic calculations, is suspect. It may have some outcome but in a lot of cases it does not. [passage omitted] Anyone who is for God will be served by divine power and will be assisted. The case of the occupation of the American Embassy was this kind of situation, and it broke off that relationship.

Fifteen years have passed since the victory of the Revolution. Fourteen years have passed since the episode of the Den of Espionage, and the Americans are still trying to restore that slender thread which was cut with the occupation of the Den of Espionage. They are still making this effort. Why? Because it is that very narrow thread that the powerful party uses to impose its own demands on the weak party. Today and tomorrow, a Democratic President, a President of the other party and America's various elite all say the same thing that I have told you. None of them say: We want to restore relations with Iran. No. When they speak of relations, they start putting forward conditions: if this happens, or if that happens.

I have said it before: There is a world of difference between what we say and what the Americans say. What we say is that we cannot bear to look at them. We do not ever want to have relations with them. What they say is: If you want to have relations with us, you should do this and that. Is there any relationship between the two remarks? It is as if they are talking to a country that has dispatched 10 go-betweens [vaseteh], saying: We want to have relations with you. They attach conditions. What conditions do you mean, sir? It is us who require conditions for having relations with a country that has such a vast record and background of atrocities.

Our condition is that that country should repent. Our condition is that that country should cease creating all these calamities in the world. Yet it is you who come and put forward conditions for us.

They pose pre-conditions for restoring relations, but not for starting negotiations. Pay very careful attention to this issue. I really would like our youth, you brother and sister students, and even you school pupils, to think about these very fine points of world politics and provide analyses on them. Even if your analysis prove to be wrong, it still will not matter.

God's damnation be upon those hands who have tried, and still try, to make our youth and our universities apolitical. How can it be possible for a nation whose youth are apolitical, unable to provide correct analyses, and completely ignorant about political issues and the world's political processes, to wage a struggle and a holy crusade? Such things may of course be possible under a dictatorship. The dictator regimes of the world see it in their interest that their people should be apolitical and devoid of any political awareness and knowledge. However, for a political system that wants to carry out momentous tasks through the endeavors of its people and seeks to achieve the system's objectives through the efforts of its people, it is impossible to allow its youth to be apolitical, because such a system invariably considers its people as the essence of its whole existence.

Even the most learned scholars can be attracted to the other side by the offer of mere candy if they lack political awareness and understanding. These very fine points must be construed by our youth. America says let us negotiate. It does not say let us establish relations. What does negotiation mean? It means that the link that was severed by the Islamic Republic should be repaired once again. We remember that the severing of that link attracted the sincere sentiments of all the nations of the world toward our system. By negotiations, they seek to deliver a clear blow to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, by enjoying control over propaganda means, they will then propagate in the world that the Islamic Republic of Iran has retreated from its position. What evidence will they provide for their claim? The clear evidence that Iran is conducting negotiations with America. A general state of despondency will be created among the nations of Asia and Africa, and even among the Muslims of Europe and America; among all the Muslim or even non-Muslim nations who have vested hope in us.

Moreover, by negotiations they intend to mar the splendid image of Imam Khomeyni, who as the symbol of the Islamic Republic of Iran induces movement in the people of these nations. They will claim that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repented because the imam [Khomeyni] has gone. Of course, we remember that after the imam's demise, one of the main lines of propaganda waged by the enemy was that now that the imam has gone, the Islamic Republic is going to be diverted from his path. Alternatively, after negotiations with the U.S., they might even go further and claim that the imam had never said that we should not negotiate with America, and what he had said concerned only a brief period. Such a claim would of course be a distortion of what the imam had clearly stated in numerous speeches and messages. The first damage they would inflict would be the destruction of the Islamic Republic's credit and reputation, as well as the image it enjoys before Muslim nations as a steadfast and resolute system. The first blow will be dealt when these Muslim nations witness that the Islamic Republic with all its experience and credentials has repented, retreated from everything, and set out on negotiations with America; a nation like the Iranian nation with all its greatness, its magnificent revolution, and all the slogans; a nation that is not a nascent nation like some countries in Africa or Europe. It is an ancient nation with deep roots in the 1400-year period after the advent of Islam, leading other Muslim nations with pride and glory.

Just when the Islamic Republic says that it agrees with negotiations or signals in some way that it is not really all that opposed to negotiations with America, the first blow will be delivered. Then they will start to impose things on us. When you are not on speaking terms with someone, then nothing really exists between you, and you expect nothing from each other. However, when you sit and negotiate with someone and have a friendly chat over a cup of coffee, and when you sit together in some international forum and have a heart-to-heart talk, then expectations naturally arise, which spell the beginning of the era of impositions.

World revolutions reach a point where their miseries begin. It begins with the U.S. domination and influence over them. There are some examples among the world countries, which I do not wish to name today. Also today, most of those countries are facing a very ugly plight. That is why they press for talks. There is so much insistence as to why Iran is not going to negotiate with them. There are also a group of simpleminded individuals—and I do not know whether they are fearful, unaware, or apolitical; they keep repeating such remarks among us. I do not know whether they understand what they are saying? I, of course, believe what is sometimes said by a number of second- or third-class officials in the Islamic Republic regime—praise be to God the first-class officials, that is, the government, the president, and the ministers are enjoying a true spiritual morale and have stood firm to serve God—but some of the second- and third-class officials, often some irresponsible individuals, murmur as to why we are not negotiating with America? They keep saying: Why are they not going to hold talks? What is wrong with talking? As if it is going to be a conversation between two ordinary persons, who sit at a corner and talk. They do not understand what grave dangers are posed by this negotiation, on which the enemy is laying so much stress. I gave you some examples of these dangers earlier.

I believe even the repeat of the remarks, made by those officials, is a bad thing. I am saying this here. This my

opinion. I believe to promote a sin into practice, one way is to make talking about that sin popular. That is, by talking about it repeatedly, its vulgarity disappears. Look at the Palestine issue and the sinister destiny some of the Palestinians have accepted for themselves. This is a very big experience for the nation of Palestine and a big lesson for the rest of the world. Someone made certain remarks here and there and the others did not tell him off. They kept saying: What is wrong if we talk to Israel? They no longer referred to Israel as the usurping enemy. My dear fellows, this is the usurping enemy and has sat in the Palestinians' home. What sort of negotiation can one hold in such a situation? There is only one sort of negotiation one can hold with it and that is, to tell it: You so-and-so, get out of my home. This is the way to negotiate with a usurper. The way of negotiating with a tyrant is to say: You so-and-so, why are you committing so many atrocities? This is what is meant by negotiation. Otherwise, one cannot go and negotiate and haggle with a usurper.

No one reprimanded those individuals who kept talking about negotiations with Israel again and again and again until its ugliness and vulgarity weakened in people's minds; eventually it came to this bitter and black day. Lest should those who keep mentioning negotiation here and there, among the Iranian nation, pursue similar objectives.

The Iranian nation is a nation that does not need negotiations and relations with its arrogant enemy. [crowd chants slogans supporting Khamene'i, condemning America and Israel]

Is the Iranian nation a weak and small nation lacking the ability to defend itself? What need do we have to go and knock on the doors of the arrogant, despotic, and dictator international powers?

I said last year that these gentlemen who constantly speak of democracy to appease their own nations act as though they are the standard-bearers of democracy—something that constitutes a blatant lie, because there is no real democracy in any of their countries—these very same gentlemen are engaged in building a vast and bloody dictatorship on a global scale. They set foot on any place they wish, and they explore any place they want. Meanwhile an apparatus called the United Nations and the Security Council has been created, which unfortunately acts as an instrument in the hands of these powers.

What need is there for us to go to these dictators to bow down and ask them to negotiate with us? No sir! This dictator is the same one that this nation, at a time when it had nothing, kicked out of its home merely by resorting to the power of slogans. It is the same dictator. These are exactly the same people that during the era when the world had two poles of power [pauses]... it is said that the world has only one pole of power today, but I say that we faced more dangers then than now. This is because those two poles may have had their differences over hundreds of issues, but they had no difference in their opinion toward Iran. For instance, look at the case of the Iran-Iraq war, where both America and the Soviet Union helped Iraq. The NATO and the Warsaw Pact both helped Iraq. Everyone in fact helped Iraq. During that era the entire world was under the control of these two poles. [passage omitted]

Was it not a fact that the two superpowers had united to be able to perhaps separate Khuzestan [oil rich southern province] from Iran, and weaken, denigrate, and finally topple the Islamic republic? They failed, did then not? If they failed in those days when they were both strong and united in their stances toward Iran, what can they do today? Why are you frightened? [passage omitted]

Why are you afraid of the enemy— a weak enemy; a powerless enemy; an enemy who, to this very day, in an effort to pressurize Iran, is pleading with certain European countries seeking their cooperation in the hope of bringing pressure against Iran?

My dear fellows, does this not mean that this enemy cannot bring pressure to bear on its own? Does this not mean that this great nation with its great spiritual and Islamic power has overcome the enemy's material power by now? Why do they not think? We thank God that our nation is awake. We thank God that our youth is awake, and we thank God that you, students, are awake. But stay awake. I should tell you quite explicitly I do not like the state of affairs concerning universities right now. A student who cannot understand what is happening in the world is not a student of his times—he is not a man of his times. A student should care about politics and be politically conscious. [passage omitted] If the nation has the necessary alertness, the enemy's rumor-mongering would melt like snow and ice under the burning sun. Who should do this? It is you, the youth, who should do it. I am telling you, our dear young ones, what there is to be said about God's words. I did tell you.

God Almighty, I feel that the nation and I myself will not turn away from your path, your will, and resolve because of the enemy's wishes. It is in this way that the nation is moving and I am witnessing this. With the power of this nation, we do not feel weak in the face of any major world power. [audience chants slogans condemning America and others]

I can see that the enemy wants to advance its deeds through the creation of fear. We rely on divine power, which manifests itself in the strength of our great nation and do not fear the arrogant, vain enemy. We believe that he cannot do anything. [passage omitted] The Koran must be believed when it says that Satan's vindictiveness is weak. If one day we read this in the Koran and accepted it because we believed in it—oh God! You are witness to the fact that today, we have accepted this on the basis of experience as well. Experience shows this. If Satan was not weak, it would not tolerate the Islamic Republic. You see how hostile they are toward the Islamic Republic. You see this when they talk about the

Islamic Republic. [passage omitted] Look at the American President; look at their sour-faced foreign secretary. When they speak about the Islamic Republic, grudges, hatred, and hostility drips from their faces.

So, why can they not do a damn thing in spite of all this hate? Why? What is the reason? Who is holding them back? Who has prevented them from delivering blows? Who has stopped them from imposing a full economic embargo and, in their own words, wreck the Iranian nation? Some of these simpleminded, weak-willed people also repeat these things saying: Look here, they will really wreck the Iranian nation. How dare they? They cannot wreck the Iranian nation.

They are the ones who have received a good beating from the Iranian nation. They are, thus, suffering from weakness and cannot do much. Of course, on condition that the Iranian nation remains on the arena the same as before, praise be to God. The condition is that the cowards and scaremongers stop going among the people to frighten them by saying: This is going to happen and that is going to happen. They are going to attack us and arrest us. No, my dear fellow. What is the meaning of such remarks? We are a strong and powerful nation.

We are not just a nation of 2 or 3 million people somewhere in Africa to whom they can do anything they like. We are a nation living in the center of the world's time-honored civilization; a nation that is situated today on a very important crossroads of the world. That is how God has willed our fate, and there is nothing we can do about it. We are 60 million strong; a brave and powerful people and nation that has emerged from the imposed war victorious and with flying colors.

Fortunately, all the nations around us share this same view about our nation. As you saw, our president went to several of these countries and their peoples welcomed the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran like a darling, despite the fact that for 80 years they were subjected to intense efforts to forget Islam. What is the reason for that? Do those peoples love individuals for their names? Do they like particular individuals?

No, sir. The reason is Islam. The reason is that this is a Muslim nation and the peoples of Central Asia love the head of this Muslim nation.

Such is our international standing. Everywhere else our standing is the same; we have had the same reception anywhere we have traveled in the world.

With such international and domestic standing, we can all join hands to build our country without being in need of anyone else. We are not afraid of anybody. It is no use trying to put us in an embarrassing situation or saying that, well, it is America and nothing else can be done about it. What nonsense! Let them think and draw their own conclusion—that they are dealing with Iran and that there is nothing they can do. If anybody has to come to terms it is they who must come to terms with Iran. Thankfully this is what has already happened.

So long as the Lord of the Age is keen in blessing you nobody can harm you. My prayers to our youth, our students, our people, and especially these Lebanese youth—survivors of the recent event, which was a calamity. May God save you and save the Lebanese and the Palestinian nations.

Over 'Thousand' Students Rally

LD0311153493 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 3, IRNA—On the eve of the 14th anniversary of the takeover of the "den of espionage" (former U.S. Embassy) more than one thousand students held an anti-U.S. demonstration in front of the Tehran University here Tuesday [2 November], reported the morning Persian daily, SALAM, today.

The demonstrators led by Hojatoleslams 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, Montajab-Nia and Hadi Khamene'i, chanted the slogans of "Death to America," "Silence and compromise will be tantamount to the end of our movement," "Death to American brand of Islam," and "The economic restructuring must insure interests of the dispossessed."

The students also strongly condemened foreign borrowing and said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a weapon used by the U.S. against the freedom-loving people of the world, SALAM wrote.

In a 12-point resolution issued at the end of the ceremony the students pledged that the "second revolution" which began with the seizure of the den of spies would continue till the total collapse of all hegemonic powers, reported the daily.

The resolution also expressed regret that nowadays "ominous calls, in violation of the spirit of revolution, invite the nation and the leadership to adopt the policy of compromise and disregard the principles of revolution... however, the leadership and the revolutionary people of Iran would remain loyal to their commitment of continuing the anti-U.S. campaign."

In a brief speech to the students Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami condemned adoption of any policy of appeasement towards the U.S. Administration.

Programs Assail U.S. 'Hegemony'

LD0311234593

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television Network First and Second Programs in Persian broadcast two 30-minute special programs on 3 November marking the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The programs are broadcast at 1638 GMT on the Second Program and 1912 GMT on the First Program. The subject of both programs deals with U.S. "hegemony" and how the United States has been trying to "dominate" the world since the collapse of the Soviet

Union. Both programs predict that the American superpower is bound to meet the same fate as that of the Soviet Union.

The 1912 GMT special program speaks of the collapse of social values in America and increase of injustice and poverty. It shows edited shots of the 1979 revolution, the burning of the U.S. flag, and pictures of the U.S. burnt-out helicopters in their failed rescue mission to free the hostages. The running commentary says that the United States is no longer the strongest power on earth but its power has diminished and it is now only one of the big powers.

The 1638 GMT special program focuses on the decline of U.S. economic power since the 1970s. It says thousands of Americans are living in extreme poverty and food rationing has been introduced in some areas.

Apart from these programs, Tehran IRIB Television First Program in Persian also fills the gaps between its programs with anti- American songs, cut to revolutionary pictures as well as the use of anti-U.S. posters and slides in the background whenever presenters appear to announce coming programs. The main news bulletin at 1530 GMT is followed by the full broadcast of Khamene'i's speech (first referent item), which at the end is immediately faded into a short video program of semi-animated collages, stills, cartoons, maps, and pictures of victims of conflict in countries where the United States has been involved. These pictures are cut to a song, composed several years ago, which opens with the lines "America, America, death to your trickery; the blood of our youths drips from your claws." Reports on Khamene'i's speech and Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri's remarks (second referent item) were repeated in all radio and television bulletins throughout the day.

Negotiations With U.S. Rejected

LD0411113593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Our country's Muslim and revolutionary people today participated in ceremonies throughout the country marking 4 November, the National Day for Campaign Against Global Arrogance and also Student Day. In Tehran the ceremonies were held in front of the former American Den of Espionage, according to a pre-announced program.

[Unidentified correspondent] Dear listeners: Here, in front of the former American Den of Espionage, I am reporting to you on the ceremonies marking the Day of God, the anniversary of the migration of the imam of ummah, and also Students Day, which coincides with the anniversary of the capture of America's Den of Espionage—the day that is named the National Day for Campaign Against Global Arrogance.

Ceremonies began moments ago in front of America's former Den of Espionage. In response to calls from political and religious personalities and civil and military officials, who asked for massive participation in these ceremonies, various strata of the people, especially students, pupils, basijis, workers and employees of various institutions, organized a march in which they carried placards and pictures of the imam of ummah and the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

The marchers gathered in front of America's former Den of Espionage to renew the memory of the second revolution. As they gathered they chanted strong slogans such as "Death to America," "Death to Israel," and "Death to Global Arrogance."

They then pledged their decisive and all-embracing support to the statements of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i, and also to the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance rejecting any negotiation with America.

Turkish Minister, Besharati Discuss Bilateral Ties

LD0411110993 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese in a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati Wednesday called for expansion of bilateral relations.

Underlining the role Iran plays in the maintenance of peace and stability in the region, Mentese invited Besharati to pay a visit to Turkey.

The Turkish official appreciated Iran's hospitality extended to former Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu. The Turkish official expressed hope that historical and friendly relations between the two countries would further strengthen in all fields.

Besharati also underlined Iran's determination in upgrading bilateral relations with Turkey and said exchange of high-level delegations between the two countries was a good proof to it.

The Iranian official reiterated the need for closing joint borders to rebels and drug traffickers and said an Iranian delegation would visit Ankara soon.

Daily: Tehran Cannot Ignore Clashes Near Border

LD0311210493 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov., 3, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday warned Armenia that "if one bullet crosses the Iranian border or even if the fireworks go on along the Iranian borderline, the future political conduct will be based on an analysis of aggression."

In a comment on the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijan territory, the Persian daily ABRAR, said if the Armenians have a good memory they should learn a lesson from their own past and that of many other

aggressors and remember one point well: "They have crossed the red security line and should therefore bear the consequences."

ABRAR said tens of thousands of Azeri refugees are now housed near the Iranian border and the military engagement is only a few steps away. It also said the national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be influenced by the expansionist views of a newly-born and petty member in the region. "Armenia should not forget that continuation of this trend against the Azeri Muslims would prompt the support of one billion Muslims of the world." At the same time, it said, Iran cannot ignore military clashes next to its borders.

ABRAR accused the Armenians of blocking all ways to peace under any pretext, and said according to some experts, Armenia counted on the support of Moscow and is not afraid of continuing its actions.

If this is true, the paper said, "we should ask whether Moscow does not attach any importance to good neighborly relations with Tehran?"

Radio: Rabin Remark 'Clear Threat' to Palestinians

NC0311204693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Zionist delegation, in the fourth stage of its ongoing negotiations in Taba with the Palestinian delegation, which is bargaining with it about implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement, provoked problems and difficulties that forced the Palestinians to suspend the talks. The Taba meetings began one month after the PLO and Israel signed the abovementioned agreement and proceeded along two tracks, one dealing with military issues and the other pertaining to Palestinian self-administration. The discussions focused on the planned withdrawal and redeployment of the Zionist forces from occupied territories in Gaza and Jericho. The talks also dealt with the establishment of a Palestinian police force in the self-administration area.

During the fourth meeting, the Israeli delegation's position provoked the Palestinian objection that it contradicted the principles of the Rabin-'Arafat bilateral agreement. Palestinian delegation head Nabil Sha'th announced that the new Israeli proposal signifies Israeli redeployment in Gaza and Jericho but does not signify implementing the agreement signed in Washington. According to reports, the Israeli delegation had proposed that the Palestinians accept the deployment of Israeli forces near Jewish population centers in Gaza and Jericho. The Israelis also asked the Palestinians to guarantee freedom of movement for Israeli military personnel in the Palestinian areas.

The remarks made by the Zionist entity's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin about suspending the Taba negotiations are worthy of attention. He said that Israel will never concede any matter that it deems necessary for its security. The remarks imply a clear threat to the Palestinian delegation. They also show that Israel will never make concessions on matters connected with its security.

This raises many questions about Israel's concept of security and what the Zionist entity means when it makes such statements before the world public. To throw more light on the Zionist concept of security one must make a quick review of the history of this racist, settler entity. This history embodies the special connotation that the term security has in the Zionist lexicon. Since it was established as a usurper, foundling statelet, the Zionist entity has survived through aggression, repression, slaughter, and terrorism. Speaking of security needs is a mere pretext that this entity has customarily used, over the past 45 years, to impose usurping occupation as a fait accompli in Palestine.

Talking about security is a traditional Zionist ploy of covering up the usurper entity's brutal conduct against the wronged Palestinian nation. The Zionist concept of security totally contradicts the concept of security according to all other international and human laws and norms.

Raising security issues in line with the Zionist understanding is a well-planned act designed to deprive others of their security. Zionist security means depriving the residents of the occupied territories and occupied south Lebanon of their own security. It is the world community's responsibility to end this security doublespeak as exploited by the usurper Zionist authorities.

All things considered, historical experience proves that security founded on injustice is a temporary phenomenon.

* MIRO Commentary on Relations With U.S.

94LA0004 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 Sep 93 pp 8, 9

["Translation of excerpts from an analytical statement issued by the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization (MIRO) on relations with the United States"; supplemental material from Tehran ABRAR in Persian on 8 and 13 September on page 8 enclosed within brackets; first paragraph is KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL introduction]

[Text] *What follows is a translation of excerpts from an analytical statement issued by the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization (MIRO) on relations with the United States. The statement which appeared in the morning daily ABRAR earlier this month, rejects a call by a Member of Parliament for Iran to resume diplomatic ties with the United States.*

Recently one of the morning dailies carried a letter from Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani (MP for Tehran) to the grand leader of the revolution. The central theme of the letter is resumption of relations with the United States. This letter focussed on the necessity of relations with the

United States [by analyzing the present conditions and changes in the region and the world and also the present situation of Islamic Iran.]

It seems that the letter has not been prepared by just one person, but by a group of opinion leaders believing in closer relations with the United States. To say the least, that group has encouraged the writer to write it. [Under the pretext of the existing international conditions and climate and by resorting to the reality of a serious and urgent threat from the United States, they call for unconditional surrender of the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran instead of steadfastness and resistance, of course, while retaining all the principle and anti-oppression positions. They call on the IRI and the revolution to surrender unconditionally with a view to the serious and immediate threat of the United States.] Unfortunately, in the past few years and in particular after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, [and the temporary single polarization of the world domination order,] that kind of mentality and tendency has attracted more and more supporters from amongst the weak, defeatist as well as simpleminded persons at home and abroad.

[Since the aggressive intent and expansionist goals of the United States, especially in the Middle East region and particularly against the revolution and the regime of the IRI, is known to all, and lack of awareness of and realistic sensitivity to the present grave conditions can prepare the grounds for the acceptance and spreading of compromising and submissive viewpoints, affect the simpleminded and gullible, and have unpleasant effects, we find it necessary to examine the above-mentioned letter, which shows the analysis and viewpoints and, in fact, is the political communique and declaration of the positions of the supporters of establishing relations with the United States, in order that they be judged by you alert and revolutionary people.]

The writer refers to "strategic, geopolitical, economic, and political status of the IRI in the region" and the "concurrence" and even "tying of the IRI and the U.S. interests in the Middle East..." He emphasizes: "U.S.-led Western political and economic domination of the world community," arguing that the internal differences and rivalries of the Western front are little compared to their "common interests" and cannot be exploited by the (former) third world countries. [After presenting the above picture and accepting the new world order as a reality that has certain "consequences and effects,"] the writer proposes that the IRI plays a share in the new world order (NWO) and become one of its decisive factors. To reach that aim, the writer has paid attention to "solving of differences with the United States" instead of "escaping" or "surrender." In his opinion we shall be able to:

1. be a partner (of the United States) in making a decision regarding the future of Iraq;

2. have a share in formulating the Persian Gulf security plan that is not possible without cooperation and agreement between Iran and the United States;

3. solve the problem of Afghanistan, which is dependent on an agreement with the United States;

4. stop the bold and occasionally impolite audacity of Turkey, which is caused by lack of (U.S.) access to us and its inevitable reliance on Turkey;

5. facilitate and speed up, through talks with the United States...the refund of liquidity and capital that will have a major role in our national economic development plan;

6. alleviate many of our problems and disputes that we currently have with Western countries (other than the United States) and prepare the ground for better use of rivalries between a united Europe and the United States;

7. make possible the enforcement of the remaining points of Resolution 598 that depends on US cooperation;

8. make possible effective utilization of the Security Council in favor of the world of Islam, [which is not possible without the agreement and cooperation of the permanent members of the Security Council (meaning the United States) with our views and suggestions].

The writer adds at the end: "What was said are not the only positive results of solving our disputes with the United States. There surely are finer and more specific results and consequences."

In the writer's opinion, solutions to all the internal, regional, and worldwide problems [of the IRI and even the Islamic world] depend on solving disputes and resumption of relations with the United States. On that basis, the writer concludes: "If the solving of the dispute (with the United States) begins when the IRI has time and choice so much the better otherwise, the same fate of the hostages issue awaits it."

He does not fail, of course, to add that the experienced IRI system should design numerous complicated methods to fight the world predators. [Struggle is not exclusively open struggle, hostile messages, and declaration of official positions.] Can the IRI not retain all its principled and anti-oppression stands at the same time as solving its disputes with the United States [without giving up its long-term, authentic, and decisively anti-oppression and anti-U.S. programs?]

To avoid the painful and ominous moment that another glass of poison will pour down the throat of the revolution and the republic, the writer has suggested a time-scheduled plan for solving the dispute with the United States. He argues that the most important effect of that plan is prevention of any accidental resumption of times at U.S. initiative [and referring to the internal problems of the United States and welcoming the plan to recall the (U.S.) armed forces from abroad] and declares the present conditions to be proper for the enforcement of that plan.

Assumptions of the Letter

[Before examining and analyzing the content of the letter, it seems useful to take a look at the suppositions on which the writer bases his argument explicitly or implicitly and that comprise the analytical and prescriptive foundations of his opinions. These assumptions are:]

2.1. U.S. readiness to establish relations with the IRI and cooperate with it in all the regional and international issues;

2.2. Necessity of resumption of ties to the United States in the not distant future;

2.3. Coherence and even conformity of our interests with those of the United States, in particular in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East;

2.4. Existence of only three approaches to the NWO: "escape," "surrender," and "positive attitude";

2.5. Solution of all the internal and external problems of the revolution and system if relations and cooperation are established with the United States;

2.6. Possibility of protecting all the principles of the revolution at the same time as having extensive cooperation and coordination between Iran and the United States in the world and the region;

2.7. Existence of a united Western front led by the United States and the negligibility of the contradictions prevailing within it;

2.8. Prevalence of fundamental differences between the Democratic and Republican parties and the chance of exploiting greatly the success of Clinton and Democrats in the United States.

A Discussion & Analysis of the Assumptions

3.1. [From the perspective of the writer, the U.S. policy vis-a-vis Iran is the establishment of relations and cooperation and naturally IRI must some day respond positively to this necessity. Considering the single-poled world of today and because all the internal and external problems of the country and the revolution are related to our lack of relations and cooperation with the United States, the existing conditions have been considered the best condition for moving towards resolving the conflicts and the establishment of relations.] MIRO does not endorse the negative extremist, anarchist, blind, and aimless views that hold any establishment of relations with the United States under any circumstances to be contrary to the principles of the revolution and the *shari'ah*. MIRO is of the opinion that talks and settlement with the enemy do not contradict our revolutionary and ideological principles, as was the case with talks in Algeria, Vietnam, etc. with their enemies, [which could not, and essentially did not, harm their principles]. But any talks and settlement must take place from a position of strength. Talks between the weak and the strong have no results but unconditional surrender by the former. [The results of such talks are much more harmful and painful than the "Camp David Accords" and the present talks between the Arabs and Israel, in which, at least in appearance, both sides have leverages, and will be more similar to the Versailles peace talks after the defeat of Germany in WWI and the talks between Iraq and the United States after Iraq's defeat in the Persian Gulf war, etc. Not giving in to such talks and settlements, even if we assume doomed defeat and destruction for a movement or a revolutionary system, is a requirement of honor, and this is the only thing that is expected of the revolutionary movements and regimes.]

Nevertheless, in the opinion of the MIRO, the conditions prevailing over Iran-U.S. relations and the U.S. policy toward Iran are totally different than, and even contradictory to, what the writer of the letter has stated. In our opinion, the United States is seeking to overthrow all the independent systems, in particular the independent oil exporters of the Middle East and North Africa. Our Islamic system, [which in addition to the above-mentioned characteristics and its being Islamic and revolutionary, enjoys the most sensitive, strategic, and geopolitical position in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East,] comes foremost. No change and turn in our policies and not even a metamorphosis in our system will prevent U.S. imperialism from pursuing its aim. [If the United States sometimes encourages us to be moderate or change our behavior and be less extreme on various occasions, it is merely to create doubt and confusion and to prevent the creation of the decisive will to stand and resist vis-a-vis the strategy of overthrow and force us to assume submissive positions and viewpoints, which itself is the expediting and facilitating phase in the direction of the above-mentioned strategy.] The experience of Gorbachev and the fall of the Soviet Union, in spite of accepting all the "change of conduct" suggested by the United States is very instructive.

The correct form of the issue is the details of resistance to a full offensive by the United States. There is no serious and real question of peace and settlement on the part of the United States to prompt us to raise a "schedule." Our schedule should comprise the method of resistance and protection of the system and the revolution from the American New Order [and the efforts of that country to dominate Iran, the region, and the world. The present strategy of Iran, instead of cooperation with the United States and the world in the region, must be devised on the basis of the question of how we must act in the present transitional period in the world.]

[The organization considers talks and peace with the United States in conformity with "the principles of the revolution" and "national interests" only under circumstances in which either the United States changes its oppression-imperialistic positions and behavior, which in our opinion is unlikely in the foreseeable future, or the Islamic regime gains such power and leverage as to be able to appear at every negotiation and peace talk as a

powerful rival. At the present time, neither of the above-mentioned conditions exist, and peace between the United States and Iran, much more than in the early years after the victory of the revolution, resembles reconciliation between the wolf and the lamb.]

Even though the writer of the letter and some of his like minded are trying to present Iran as a regional superpower and then conclude that Iran-U.S. ties are no longer relations of a wolf and a lamb, a glance would prove that claim null and void. [sentence as published]

At present, the U.S. power has grown by far more than the early years of the revolution. The conclusion of the Cold War and the departure of the Soviet Union-led Socialist bloc from the scene of rivalry have enabled the United States to impose economic siege on one country when it wishes, to launch air and missile attacks on another country, and to launch a land offensive in a third country. The United States has stationed its forces in the Persian Gulf in our neighborhood for the past few years and we have not made a serious official protest. Under the circumstances, to claim Iran is a regional superpower is rather a joke [and seems to be an empty slogan, and it is unlikely for the writer and those who are like minded to be unaware of it. Rather, what seems likely is that such a claim is a decoration of submissiveness with a cover of pretending to be revolutionary and powerful.]

3.2. Assumption of coherence and conformity of our interests with those of the United States: That assumption needs to be discussed in more detail. But here we stated its contradictions. On the one hand, the writer speaks of the "coherence and conformity of the interests of Iran and the United States, [especially in the Persian Gulf and] in the Middle East region, and on the other hand believes that "we may not be a real friend and ally of U.S. policies even if disputes are solved." In other words, we would cooperate with the United States in all the regional and international issues, but we will never be its real friend, ally and supporter.

[Probably the writer, who has himself realized this great contradiction, introduces "observing dissimulation" as "the strongest and most certain shield of Shiite struggle" and in this manner is trying to find a solution by resorting to the principle of dissimulation. Of course, the meaning of this statement of the writer simply and clearly is that Iran should in practice cooperate with the United States and its policies in the region and the world, but in its heart, and not even in words, curse that oppressive government.]

3.3. Assumption of three approaches [to deal with "the NWO": The writer of the letter has assumed only three approaches, "escape," "surrender," and "positive reaction," in the relationship between Iran and the United States and has chosen the third approach. We believe his "escape" approach is rather unclear and vague. The second and the third, i.e., surrender and positive approaches, are in fact one and the same. We believe the only way is confrontation with the New World Order (NWO), [which, unfortunately, has not occurred to the writer and those who are like minded. The other proposed approaches, even though from various directions, wind up in the same place, which is the destruction of the revolution and the IRI, we have spoken of in detail in Statement No. 1 of the Organization about this issue.][2]

3.4. Possibility of protecting all the principles [despite cooperation between Iran and the United States in the region and the world: It is clear that the suggestion of the writer is not limited to a simple, minimal relationship with the United States. Rather, what he has in mind is full cooperation with the United States in the region and worldwide. How could the Islamic revolution, for which seeking justice and fighting oppression, etc., are among its essential characteristics, protect its principles in that case and be a colleague of the United States, the greatest enemy of justice, freedom, and independence of nations and the crystallization of oppression and imperialism in its highest form, and, for example, assume the role and position of Turkey in the regional and worldwide policies of the U.S. Government? The contradiction is so clear that it requires no discussion or reasoning.]

3.5. Existence of a united Western front [headed by the United States]: The writer, in order to justify the need for compromise and cooperation with the United States, has portrayed a stronger unity on the Western front than the time of the Cold War, [behind which he has hidden the existing conflicts and differences]. MIRO believes that contradictions of Europe and Japan with the United States are much more serious than their joint interests. If they are handled reasonably, and instead of cooperation with the United States, relations are established with Europe (minus Britain) and Japan—i.e., the weak side of the contradiction—surely the regional and international problems of Iran will be reduced greatly. The stands of Germany, Japan, and France in the latest conference of the seven industrialized countries confirm that view. [For this reason, the foreign minister of Japan, Michio Watanabe, states, We must not agree 100 percent to the demands of the United States of America concerning our relations with Iran, because our relations with Iran have deep roots and are different from the relations of the United States with Iran.][3]

3.6. Prevalence of fundamental difference between the Democratic and Republican parties [of the United States]: The writer considers the difference between Bush and Clinton to be very important and fundamental concluding that the hay of cooperation should be made while the Clinton administration's sun shines. In our opinion a change of government in capitalist states does not bring about a serious change in their policies. [Second, the change of the ruling parties usually is the result of the change in the policies of the governments and not its cause.] Establishment of the NWO and "undisputed domination of the world by the United States" has been the central theme of U.S. foreign policy under both of them, [and the differences between the two presidents in the above-mentioned areas are mainly limited to individual characteristics and tactics of the

time and will not cause any major change in U.S. policies in the region and the world].

A Review & Analysis of Contents of the Letter

4.1. Iran's partnership in the new world order (NWO).

MIRO considers the partnership intended by the writer as following and endorsing U.S. efforts to establish its undisputed reign over all the countries [and devouring the world, even though we believe that government does not even consider following it or our endorsement sufficient for its purposes. The experiences, such as the freedom of the American hostages in Lebanon, Iran's stands in the course of the Persian Gulf war, dealing with the regime of Iraq, etc., proved not only that the positions of the United States towards Iran were not modified and softened, but also that the United States hardened its positions and increased its demands.] In spite of all the realities, even if we anage to win U.S. acceptance, our share in the NWO will be less than those of the Governments of Turkey, Arabia, Taiwan, etc.

The writer stated: "If the United States could reach agreement with us over the future of Iraq and to design and enforce a reliable plan with IRI cooperation and agreement regarding to post-Saddam government, it would have taken action to purge Saddam from the outset of its entry into Iraq. But, in practice, we have created certain conditions under which the United States has been forced to find another reliable solution for the Iraqi problem without our participation, cooperation, or even consultation."

An agreement [over "a reliable plan" and "sure solution"] concerning Iraq's future with the United States is very interesting and questionable. It is clear that what the writer means [by "reliable plan" and "sure solutions"] are sure solutions and plans reliable for the United States. But he has not specified how that could be provided by the IRI. The United States and British aim is to dominate Iraq and its oil resources. [By gaining the trust of the United States, is it meant that we should agree to the domination of the above-mentioned governments over Iraq and reach an "agreement" with them concerning such a future?] Should we allow that and reach agreement? That does not need our agreement. The United States and Britain have won over all the forces we supported so far, have involved them in activities by forming the National Congress of Iraq [for the overthrow of Saddam's regime, and have spread the umbrella of their political, diplomatic, military, financial, and propaganda support over the above-mentioned Congress.][4] As far as ousting of the Iraqi regime is concerned, the IRI [from the beginning of the Persian Gulf crisis] has fulfilled its secret and open efforts. Giving priority to withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, withdrawal of multinational forces from the Persian Gulf, resumption of propaganda attacks on the Iraqi regime, [which had stopped following the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq,][5] full and renewed support for the Iraqi dissidents after the war, support for creation of safe areas in the north, efforts to extend them to southern Iraq, which are unfortunately controlled by the United States and to some extent Britain, etc. Regrettably, without much achievement and positive result for Iran, they caused deterioration of Iranian-Iraqi relations and enhancement of United States and British stands in IRI neighborhood. Those actions have all been taken in line with enforcement of the writer's views. The outcome, the writer admits, has been "omitting the IRI from the scene of decision making about Iraq."

4.2. [4.3. in Persian text] Iranian cooperation with the United States to formulate Persian Gulf security plan: [The writer of the letter must be asked: What security, for which government or governments, and against which governments and forces would be governed by cooperation between Iran and the United States in devising the "Persian Gulf security plan?"]

That cooperation would be possible when there is a shared understanding of security for the two parties, as was the case under the Shah. [At that time, the global enemy of the United States and Britain was the Soviet Union and their regional enemy was the national, anticolonial, leftist, etc., forces, and because of the dependence of Iran on the above-mentioned governments, those forces were also considered the enemies of Iran. Naturally, the United States and Britain cooperated with Iran not only in the security of the Persian Gulf but also even conferred the preservation of its security on Iran and supported and equipped the shah's regime, as the gendarme of the region, to carry out such a mission.] Have any common interests been established between the United States and Iran after the Islamic revolution, the Persian Gulf war, and the Soviet Union disintegration to necessitate their cooperation for a security plan? Some day, the shah justified his dependence on imperialism on the pretext of the "Soviet threat" and the simpleminded and antileftist persons preferred cooperation with the "Great Satan" to "Greatest Satan." What necessitates that cooperation now...? [Iraq, which in the course of the Persian Gulf war was defeated and suffered serious damage, is not only unable to create a threat to the security of the Persian Gulf and the region, but is even facing great problems in protecting its territorial integrity.] Therefore, at the present time, fighting these two governments as a common ground between Iran and the United States is no longer a question. Iraq is no longer a threat, U.S. interests at present in the Persian Gulf and the region are full domination of Iraq, expansion of influence in the regional states, full control of oil in the Middle East and North Africa, solving Arab-Israeli disputes in favor of the latter, and influence over the newly independent republics of the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Afghanistan. ["Security" for the United States means the security of the above-mentioned interests.] The most important obstacle ahead of security of those interests are Islamic Iran [and even Iraq.[6] Under such circumstances,] how can Islamic Iran cooperate with the United States to formulate a security plan? That will be nothing but servitude and unconditional following of the

United States, similar to the cooperation of Turkey and Persian Gulf southern sheikdoms with the United States.

4.3. [4.4. in Persian text] Substituting Turkey by Iran:

[Referring to the impudent and sometimes rude attacks by Turkey,] the writer stated: "[At least some of those (attacks) are due to the reliance of the United States on Turkey, due to not having access to us]...whereas the United States has no opening for talks with the strategic base of the region to reach agreement over joint issues it has to raise the strategic value of Turkey artificially. In other words, we have aggrandized Turkey."

The real motives of the writer and his cothinkers come into the open here. He deems Iran the "genuine and strategic base in the region" for the United States and regrets that the United States has had to go over to Turkey. Indeed he addresses the Islamic revolution that led to a change of bridgeheads and platforms for U.S. imperialism in the region. The solution offered by him and his cothinkers would surely be to make the United States understand that the "revolution" was a misunderstanding in Iranian-U.S. ties that has now been resolved; that we are still the "genuine and strategic base" of the United States in the region and there is no need to aggrandize Turkey! [Iran can carry on its old role in the region for you. The writer calls such an action "solving the existing differences with the United States...because of self reliance."] Does not substituting Turkey by Iran mean but assigning military bases, economic resources to the United States, dependence of the system on the United States and, in one word, assigning our country to the United States and a return to a prerevolution period?

4.4. [4.5. in Persian text] Iran-U.S. cooperation to solve the Afghanistan problem:

The United States and Britain are seeking to establish a dominated system with an Islamic appearance in Afghanistan, [where their interests would be maintained] and a base would be created for having influence in the Central Asian republics, as well as the siege around the Islamic revolution and Iran would be tightened. What kind of cooperation can Iran have with those governments to fulfill those objectives?

4.5. [4.6. in Persian text] Solving differences with the United States to refund liquidity and capital:

The writer stated: "Talks with the United States, would facilitate and speed up the refunding of the liquidity and capital we have in that country which (can) have a major role in our economic development plan, (otherwise) we cannot count on those assets by any means."

MIRO evaluates arguments such as the one above by supporters of talks and resumption of relations with the United States only as a justification for the need to resume ties. [These elements try to show the volume of demands as much larger than it is in reality and even raise the issue of repaying them as one of the main conditions for the improvement of relations, so that if it is achieved they can take advantage of it as a great victory, which can eliminate the main obstacle to the establishment of relations and mutually justify giving important concessions to the United States.]

In response, we remind that according to reliable information, all Iranian assets and holdings, which were frozen after the capture of the Espionage Den, with the exception of a few antique items and military goods (which have been paid for on the strength of the ruling of the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal at the Hague) have been refunded.

There is only one big claim pending at the Tribunal raised by Iran. The Iranian government has claimed about $12 billion from the source of escrow account of the Defense Ministry purchases from the United States. Iranian experts are of the opinion that the real amount that could be collected from that case will not exceed $2 billion-3 billion. The United States has accepted a part of it and the rest could be collected in the event Iran takes an active approach with the tribunal at the Hague. The impact of that amount on the economic development plan is obvious to all [those involved and aware of the situation of the country and its comparison with the revenues and expenditures that have been carried out in the past 15 years and the existing needs and shortages are clear.]

MIRO recommends that the officials check the truth of claims made by the writer with the International Legal Services Bureau so that the value of that greatest obstacle ahead of Iran-U.S. ties, [which is expressed by the supporters of relations with the United States] is clearly noted.

[Here, we must complain about the high-ranking officials of the country, because at times they have been deceived by the above-mentioned claims and, without referring to the documents and competent authorities, engaged in repeating the same claims and allowing the writer and those who are like minded to spread and propagate their submissiveness in the form of "collecting the cash and capital for the implementation of the national economic development plan."]

4.6. [4.7. in the Persian text] Solving Iranian disputes with the United States to improve relations with the West.

The writer stated: "None of them (the European governments) will enter confidently and seriously in talks with us as long as we do not enter direct talks with the West. Solving our dispute with the United States will relieve many of our problems with the Western countries and provide a better chance of exploring rivalries between a united Europe and the United States."

[It seems that the writer has not carefully studied the global changes after the disintegration of the Soviet Union or, in order to justify the necessity of establishing relations with the United States, has resorted to such analysis and reasoning.]

It should be noted that two important obstacles of the United States "ahead of undisputed domination of the new world" are Japan and Europe (Brzezinski).[7] The United States accepts united Europe and Japan as second degree partners, but strongly fears them becoming superpowers. Europe and Japan are seeking an existence and power independent of the United States and, with the abolition of the Soviet Union and the East block, no longer see a need to remain under the cover of the United States.

One of the U.S. tools for preventing Japan and Europe from becoming superpowers is full control over oil resources, in particular of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. [Europe and Japan, also aware of American aims while maintaining apparent unity, are seeking to prevent the fulfillment of U.S. aims, as much as possible.] During the Persian Gulf war, a French official visited Iran and in his talks with Iranian officials expressed the concern of united Europe (minus Britain) with U.S. efforts to dominate the region and the oil taps as the result of victory in that war.

For Europe and Japan, existence of pockets of resistance to the United States and Britain in particular in the Middle East is very important. That is why France and Europe, minus Britain, tried to extend secret support to Iraq until the final days of the Persian Gulf war. They even launched official diplomatic activities in the U.N. Security Council to prevent the eruption of the war and attack on Iraq—something that unfortunately did not provoke a positive answer and agreement from Iran.

That is why the existence of an independent Iran resisting the United States—and not cooperating with and following it—is very valuable for the united Europe and Japan, in particular after the Persian Gulf war when the control of the region has mainly been taken over by the United States and Britain.

The relative interest of European and Japanese governments to maintain close relations with Iran, in spite of great differences with and pressures from the United States, is that they see in relations with the IRI a more feasible path of influence in the region.

It is clear that if Iran gets close to the United States, its role for Europe and Japan will be one similar to that of Turkey and Persian Gulf sheikdoms, [and Iran will no longer be considered from the perspective of Europe a dam to the U.S. expansionism in the region.] In that case, for the United States, Japan, and Europe, the only difference between Islamic Iran and the neighboring countries would be that the former is more undesirable than the latter.

4.7. [4.8. in the Persian text] Iranian cooperation with the United States to enforce the remainder of Resolution 598:

[The letter states that "the implementation of the remainder of Resolution 598 of the Security Council in any case depends on U.S. cooperation."] The question is: "What parts of the resolution remain to be enforced only through cooperation with the United States? The IRI either has no problem with further enforcement of the resolution or if it has any it can be solved through talks with the badly weakened Iraqi regime. The only instance that cannot be fulfilled is receiving reparations from Iraq. In that regard, neither the United States nor any other power can collect them owing to Iraq's financial bankruptcy.

[If the United States is able to collect Iraq's debt to the Arab countries that are dependent on it, which have been paid in the course of the years of the Iran-Iraq war, and if the IRI also, as a result of the implementation of the suggestions and recommendations of the writer of the letter, becomes as desirable as they are for the United States, the United States can be expected to collect damages for Iran.]

4.8. [4.9. in the Persian text] Possibility of effective exploitation of the Security Council through cooperation with the United States:

The writer regards Iranian cooperation with the United States as a key to the conquest of the Security Council in favor of the world of Islam [and has claimed that in this way Iran will be able to defend the rights of the Muslim nations throughout the world.] Is there anybody who does not know that our revolution and system has been the target of U.S. conspiracies and vengeance owing to its persistence on interests of the world of Islam? Our cooperation with the United States will not fulfill interests of the world of Islam. On the contrary, it will force us, like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, to endorse U.S. domination of it or to keep silent. Is there anybody who does not know that since the disintegration of the bipolar system and the United States becoming the sole contender, big governments like those of Germany, Japan, and even those holding veto power, like China, Russia, and France do not play any role in the Security Council, let alone countries like Iran?

Conclusion

5.1. MIRO is of the opinion that [the letter of Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani] regardless of some of its positive aspects like warnings against the U.S. threat and stating the need for formulating a strategy for approaching the United States is very weak and at the same time dangerous. In fact, the principal message of the letter is immediate suicide fearing likely death in the future! [because it is possible for the revolution, God forbid, to be defeated some day and even destroyed. But, to quote martyr Modarres: "Why should we sign the decree of our own death ourselves?"]

5.2. While believing that major problems of the revolution and the system come from U.S. enmity, we are of the opinion that it is an inevitable and natural animosity, [because the revolution and the Islamic regime have not only stopped the hand of the United States from one of the most important geostrategic centers and great resources in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, but

also merely by its existence (and not its actions)] poses serious threats to the interests of the United States and its ally Britain in the whole region and even the whole world. [This hostility will turn into cooperation when either the lost and threatened interests are once more guaranteed or the United States changes its nature and gives up its imperialistic interests. Also, it must be pointed out that although many of the problems of the revolution and the regime stem from the United States, the solutions should be mainly sought at home. Leaving the solution to all the internal and external problems of the revolution and the regime to cooperation with the United States is a sort of avoidance behavior, a way to avoid dealing with internal weaknesses as well. It must be remembered that if the establishment of relations and cooperation with the United States was the solution to all the problems prior to the Islamic revolution, when the highest level of relations and cooperation existed between Iran and the United States, all the problems should have been eliminated and there would have been no need for the revolution against the past regime, which was not the case.] It is interesting that all cooperation suggested by the writer are those prevailing under the former regime. But the United States was not capable of preventing the fall of its puppet regime [due to internal protests and crises. Now, too, despite the false hopes and promises, especially in economic areas, which the writer and those who are like minded try to impose on relations and cooperation between Iran and the United States],[8] not much aid should be expected from the United States either. [As one of the members of the Foreign Relations Council and a U.S. academic analyst in an analytical recommendation study writes for the U.S. Government: Even if the United States, with all its power, takes steps to improve economic cooperation with Iran, in that case too, a series of the economic problems of Iran will persist.][9]

5.3. The writer had equated normalization of Iran-U.S. relations with cooperation.

Iran has had normal relations with Arabia, the sheikdoms, Turkey, etc. The question is: Has Iran been able to have real cooperation with them?

The truth is that the suggestion does not form a positive approach to NWO, but an unconditional surrender under the worst conditions. Even assuming IRI readiness for cooperation, the United States is not prepared under the present circumstances to compromise with a non-dependent system enjoying a strategic status and rich resources and energy. [U.S. dealings with the dependent regimes or those very close to it, such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, etc., are instructive in this regard. The United States does not even approve of the existence of sheikdoms in some of these countries and is trying to find replacements whose appearance in addition to their content can be endorsed and desirable.]

Secondly, assuming U.S. readiness, a "positive approach" by Iran would mean giving everything and receiving nothing [and in fact giving up the nature and the content of the revolution without receiving a guarantee even to maintain its form.] The desired strategy of the United States is to divest the revolution of prestige and identity first, and then to destroy it. That is the very tactic employed for the Soviet Union under Gorbachev. [It hollowed the Soviet Union from within, and by escalating the disintegration of that country and the overthrow of Gorbachev ultimately destroyed its form as well.] The suggested positive approach is another expression of "positive neutrality" declared by the shah (after the 1953 coup) as opposed to the negative balance policy of Dr. Mossadeq. [The shah's policy also had an impartial appearance,] but the real content of it was servitude of the United States and Britain.

An Analysis of the Present Condition and a Prelude to a Strategy of Countering the United States:

MIRO is of the opinion that for a national and effective resistance to U.S. and British pressures and offensives and a serious counter to them, slogans are not enough and may even provoke the enemy. A comprehensive analysis of conditions of the world, the region and our country, as well as formulation of a proper strategy are pressing needs. [In this area, it is necessary to make a few preliminary points.]

As stated in our Statement No. 1, we still regard the United States and its intended new order as the most principal threat to the revolution and system. [Since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the United States has been trying to establish undisputed political, economic, and ideological domination over the "newly ordered" world. In order to achieve this goal, all "rebels" must be suppressed, directly or indirectly, so that firstly the possibility for achieving desirable domination is provided, and secondly, in the future no one would think of "rebellion."]

The independent governments of yesterday's third world and today's second world are among the governments facing the direct offensive and suppression of the United States. Europe, Japan, China, and Russia are under indirect pressures and attacks of the United States.

[Suppressing some of the "rebellious" regimes that might be a potential threat to the perpetuation of the undisputed rule of the United States and the establishment of dominated regimes in their place, while expanding the leadership and the domination of the United States in the world, also helps the second aim, which is to weaken potential rivals.] If the United States or Britain and the United States together gain full domination over governments of Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Iran among others, the United States will have taken control of almost all the world oil resources. Hence, the rivals lacking sources of energy will be forced to surrender and obey commands. From the perspective of the United States, essentially the independence of such governments (and not their being hostile) is considered a crime and an obstacle on the path to the global aims (of that government).

It is obvious that the strategy of NWO, contrary to simplistic analyses, has nothing to do with the Republican or the Democratic parties, Bush or Clinton. [Despite all his slogans in the presidential elections to pay attention to the internal problems of the United States and propagate a sort of isolation in global policy, after his victory, Clinton pursued the path of his predecessor.] The only differences between the two U.S. administrations are in tactics and personal capabilities.

MIRO and its members emphasized a serious threat since the start of the Persian Gulf war. Unfortunately almost none of the (Iranian) politicians felt the seriousness and urgency of the U.S. threat until lately. Otherwise, we should have borne witness to stands different from those adopted toward the Persian Gulf war, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. Fortunately, almost all analysts and policy makers have understood the significance of the issue today. But there are still fundamental differences regarding the method of approaching the objective and tangible danger.

Some people, like the letter's writer, deem the only solution as "compromise from a position of strength". Some others only state hollow slogans without any aims and analysis or strategic and realistic approaches and condemn any relations with the United States at all times and under any circumstances.

Assuming the honesty and qualification of holders, we deem the first approach as surrender seeking, and the second as lacking rationality and depth and a preparer of ground for acceptance of the first.

While believing the principle of negotiations and compromise with the enemy open to discussion we are of the opinion that under the present circumstances, any talks and compromise with the enemy from a position of weakness would further weaken the system and the government and speed up the United States conspiracies.

MIRO believes that the Iranian foreign policy must be based on closer relations and even unity with governments having a similar fate and being independent of the United States, smart exploitation of contradictions of Japan and Europe with the United States, detente with other governments even those dependent on the United States and Britain with the exception of Israel and South Africa, and finally vigilant and firm resistance to the United States and Britain as the most principle [as published] enemies of the revolution and the system.

It should be noted that although the above-mentioned suggestions concern how to stand against foreign aggression, [this resistance primarily has its foundations in the revolution, the regime, and the country.] Resistance in the first place has its foundations at home.

[Preserving the unity and strength of the internal front is the necessary condition for any sort of resistance. This unity and strength is also dependent on the contentment and trust of the masses of the people as the soldiers of the revolution and attracting and protecting the conscious elements and the forces as the commanders of this front. Although there is no room in this brief analysis for detailed description, we need to point out that providing social justice, reducing economic pressures at the same time as moving toward economic growth and development will make the oppressed masses hopeful in the revolution and the system. Political liberalization and wisely combatting the cultural offensive will bring into the field of struggle the informed intellectual strata.]

[MIRO believes that if we consider the solution to internal problems the necessary condition for resistance against U.S. aggression and properly engage in it on the basis of principles, we shall certainly be undefeatable vis-a-vis the United States. If we do not pay attention to the domestic side and act improperly, even if we succeed in solving our problems with the United States, the revolution and the regime will not be guaranteed to last.]

[We believe that under the present critical and sensitive conditions of the world, resistance against the overall U.S. aggression and that of its ally Britain, in addition to requiring sufficient wisdom, perception, and information, and use of all internal and external experiences and constant and coordinated relations with all the regimes, which have the same fate and constant analyses of the situation based on a comprehensive and clear strategy, requires bravery, courage, self-sacrifice, and fearlessness as well. These characteristics and attributes are not found in the comfort seeking and ambitious elements who are sitting at the prepared table of the revolution and lack the minimum competence and revolutionary and combative experience and participation in the bloody and horrible battlefields. They are mainly the revolutionaries after the conquest. They not only are unable to stand against a frightening and gigantic enemy such as the United States, but also cannot even imagine putting up resistance against it. Hence, they have to sing the song of compromise and surrender and blow the spirit of weakness and despair in the minds and souls of others.]

[MIRO 08/06/1372] [30 Aug 1993]

[Footnotes]

[1.] (Location not in original. In all quotations, emphases and statements in brackets are ours.)

[2. Statement No. 1, "New World Order or Start of a New Phase of U.S. Aggression for World Domination."]

[3. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 05/05/1372 [27 Jul 1993], p. 12]

[4. "We also support the National Congress of Iraq as a democratic alternative for the regime of Saddam Husayn." (Middle Eastern strategy of Clinton's government) ETTELA'AT, 06/03/1372 [27 May 1993], p. 12]

[5. The speech of the honorable president at the Military Academy and the attack on the regime of Iraq and "the filthy Ba'thist soldiers," which was unprecedented after the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war, are among them.]

[6. See the new U.S. Middle East strategy, "Dual Containment," ETTELA'AT, 16/03/1372 [6 Jun 1993].]

[7.. Brzezinski article on "Obstacles to the Globalization of U.S. Power," ETTELA'AT 26/08/1370] [17 Nov 1991]

[8. The similarity and resemblance of remarks of U.S. officials with the writings and statements of the tendency supporting resumption of relations with the United States at home is not an incident in our view. It indicates a kind of direct or indirect coordination.]

[9. Patrick Clarson, U.S. PROBLEMS WITH IRAN, "Tehran, All Doors Toward America," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 05/05/1372] [27 Jul 1993].

Rajavi Condemns 'Regime' Attacks on KDPI Office

JN0311171993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian Resistance National Council, has condemned the aggressive attacks launched by the Iranian regime's troops against the office of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran [KDPI], which resulted in wounding several persons working at the office.

In a statement issued by the Iranian organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq in Paris, Rajavi said that the failure of the UN Security Council to take action on the air raids carried out by the regime against the bases of the Iranian National Liberation Army has prompted this regime to go to excess in its aggressions.

Rajavi urged the UN Security Council not to allow this regime to escape the consequences of its continuous violations of international law by taking firm and urgent measures against it, foremost among which should be the imposition of an arms and oil ban on it.

Cabinet Approves Anti-Smuggling Regulations

LD0311205893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] During a session this afternoon, the cabinet approved a set of rules and regulations pertaining to ways of stopping the import of illegal and smuggled goods.

According to our correspondent's report, on the basis of these rules and regulations, consignments of goods-carrying vehicles will be controlled up to 30 kilometers within the country by personnel of the Law Enforcement Forces. Any vehicles found carrying illegal goods or not having the Customs green certificate will be halted and their drivers and the owners of the goods will be dealt with according to the law.

On the basis of another article of these regulations, the Trade Ministry is to announce the list of permitted goods which can be exported to or imported from border markets.

* Larijani: Youth Spend Little Time on Religion

94LA0011D London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Sep 93 p 8

[Text] 'Ali Larijani, the minister of Islamic culture and guidance, said this week: Studies have shown that Iranian youth devote the least amount of their free time on religious affairs and worship.

The minister of Islamic guidance expressed disappointment concerning this matter and said that the results of the studies by the seminar of the Supreme Council of Youth, affiliated with the Guard Corps, has been surprising and discouraging. He said:

The results of the studies by this seminar showed that Iranian youth spend most of their time on watching television, entertainment, and sports. Larijani considers the spread of this indifference by youth toward religion the result of cultural invasion by the West and its efforts to take away the faith of Iranian youth. SALAM newspaper, which published this report, wrote: This study, which was carried out by the Supreme Council of Youth affiliated with the Guard Corps, shows that Iranian youth have seven hours and 22 minutes of free time every day. They spend three hours watching television and the remainder on sports, reading books, entertainment, and visiting friends and spend very little on religious affairs. The minister of guidance said: Unfortunately, youth devote the least amount of time on religious activities and studying.

Larijani blamed this problem on the oppressors and the West and emphasized that Westerners try to weaken religious feelings in the Islamic societies.

Larijani asked the officials of the mosques to employ new methods to carry out religious affairs and attract the youth.

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto's Brother Arrested in Karachi

BK0411041293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] In Pakistan, Mr. Murtaza Bhutto, brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was arrested in the early hours of this morning soon after he landed at Karachi airport after 16 years of exile. Earlier, his chartered plane from Damascus was not allowed to land in Karachi and it had to be diverted to Sharjah. Our special correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that Mr. Murtaza Bhutto—who has a non-bailable warrant pending against him for two criminal cases, including one for murder—has been taken to an undisclosed place by the police.

A large number of Mr. Bhutto's supporters who had gathered at the airport to receive him were subjected to tear gas and lathi [baton] charge. At least 30 people were injured. One policeman also received a stab wound.

Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, who was not allowed to receive her son, has alleged that she was ill-treated by the airport security staff.

Police Disperse 'Unruly Mob'

BK0411090293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Syed Parvez Ali Shah, the Sind minister for works and communications, has refuted the allegations that the airplane carrying Mir Murtaza Bhutto from Damascus was not allowed to land at Karachi airport. Addressing a news conference in his capacity as the spokesman of the Sind government in Karachi last night, he said that Begum Nusrat Bhutto was provided with all facilities at the airport according to her status and privileges. About the police action against the people who had gathered at the airport, he said the crowd took the law into its hand and tried to force its way into the terminal. Meanwhile, according to a press note issued by the Karachi East district magistrate, the crowd which tried to reach the terminal also fired in the air. Then the law enforcement agencies took legal actions to disperse the unruly mob.

Mir Murtaza Bhutto arrived in Karachi early this morning by an Ethiopian Airlines plane, ending his self-imposed 16-year exile. He was received at the airport by, among others, Begum Nusrat Bhutto.

A press note issued by the Karachi South district magistrate says that some supporters of Mir Murtaza Bhutto fired indiscriminately at a vehicle at the Shar-i-Faisal road while returning from the airport last night. Three persons were injured as a result of the firing. A case has been registered and investigations are in progress.

Ten Candidates To Run in Presidential Election

BK0411092093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Ten candidates will now contest the forthcoming presidential election on the 13th of this month. Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani and Mr. Aftab Ahmad Sherpao withdrew their nomination papers before the deadline, while Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Mir Balkh Sher Mazari after the deadline which expired at 1200 today. The status of nomination papers which have been withdrawn after the deadline will be decided by the chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Naimuddin, who is the returning officer for the presidential election. Those who will contest the election are the acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; the foreign minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari; Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Lieutenant General, retired, Abdul Majid Malik, Syed Iftekhar Hussain Gilani, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar, and the retired Air Marshal Mohammad Asghar Khan.

Rupee Devaluation Fails To Boost Growth

BK0311111193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Nov 93 p 1

[By Mahammud Awan]

[Text] Islamabad—Devaluation of Pakistani rupee by the Moin Querseshi administration failed to have the desired effects on Pakistani trade and contributed to the further worsening of the investment climate, trade figures for the first quarter of the current fiscal suggest.

The drop in machinery imports, now an almost permanent feature of the country's trade figures, indicates that the number of new industrial units being put up throughout Pakistan is consistently on the decline.

Though an improvement in the balance of trade is visible in the form of an 11 percent drop in the trade deficit during the first quarter of the current fiscal compared to the same period of the previous fiscal, one of the major factors behind this is an ever decreasing figure for machinery imports and a continuing drop in the import of industrial raw materials like petroleum products and chemicals.

The amount of foreign exchange being spent every month on the import of motor vehicles continues to grow at astoundingly high rates. Road motor vehicle imports during the last quarter were almost double the imports in the first quarter of fiscal 1992-93.

Pakistani exports during July-September, 1993 grew at a niggardly 2.6 percent over the same quarter last year. Growth of exports during September '93 over the last month was a stingy 0.67 percent an equally insignificant 0.74 percent over September '92.

Rapidly falling rice and carpet exports continue to contribute to the slow growth of overall exports, where the only consolation that the export of cotton made-ups was growing at an impressive pace until a couple of months back is also no more there. [sentence as published] Cotton cloth exports fell 9.26 percent in September compared to the August figures. However the growth is the first two months of the quarter contributed to an overall two percent growth during July-September.

Restrictions on Technology Transfer Criticized

BK0311025593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and criticized restrictions imposed on the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Participating in the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Pakistani delegate Ahmed Kamal said that the steps to aimpose arbitrary and unwarranted restrictions on the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes are very worrisome. Such thinking is based on narrow-mindedness and a superiority complex. He added that

Pakistan has advanced many proposals to make South Asia a region free of nuclear weapons. Pakistan is ready to consider any proposal that is non-discriminatory.

Foreign Minister Meets Iraqi Official

JN0211160793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1313 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Islamabad, 2 Nov (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Riyad al-Qaysi met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Farooq Lijani [name as received] here today.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations, the negative effects of the three-year-old economic blockade on Iraq, and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Defense Minister Meets Malaysian Army Chief

BK0211145993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] The Malaysian chief of the Army, General Tan Sri Haji Borhan bin Haji Ahmad, called on the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as key regional issues during the meeting. The defense minister said there was room for expansion of cooperation in various fields, including defense. The Malaysian Army chief hoped bilateral relations would further strengthen through exchange of know-how and cooperation in various fields.